











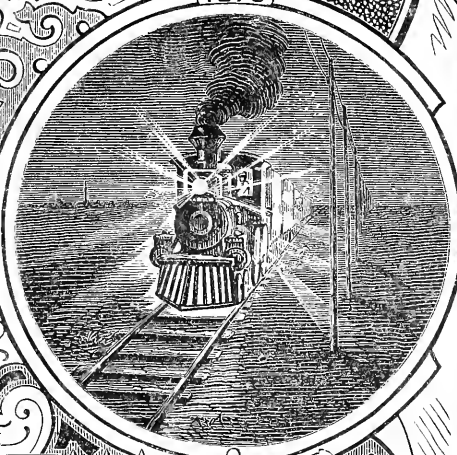
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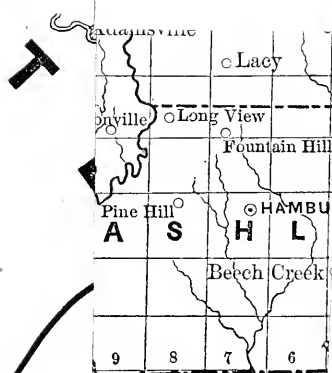
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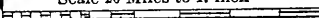
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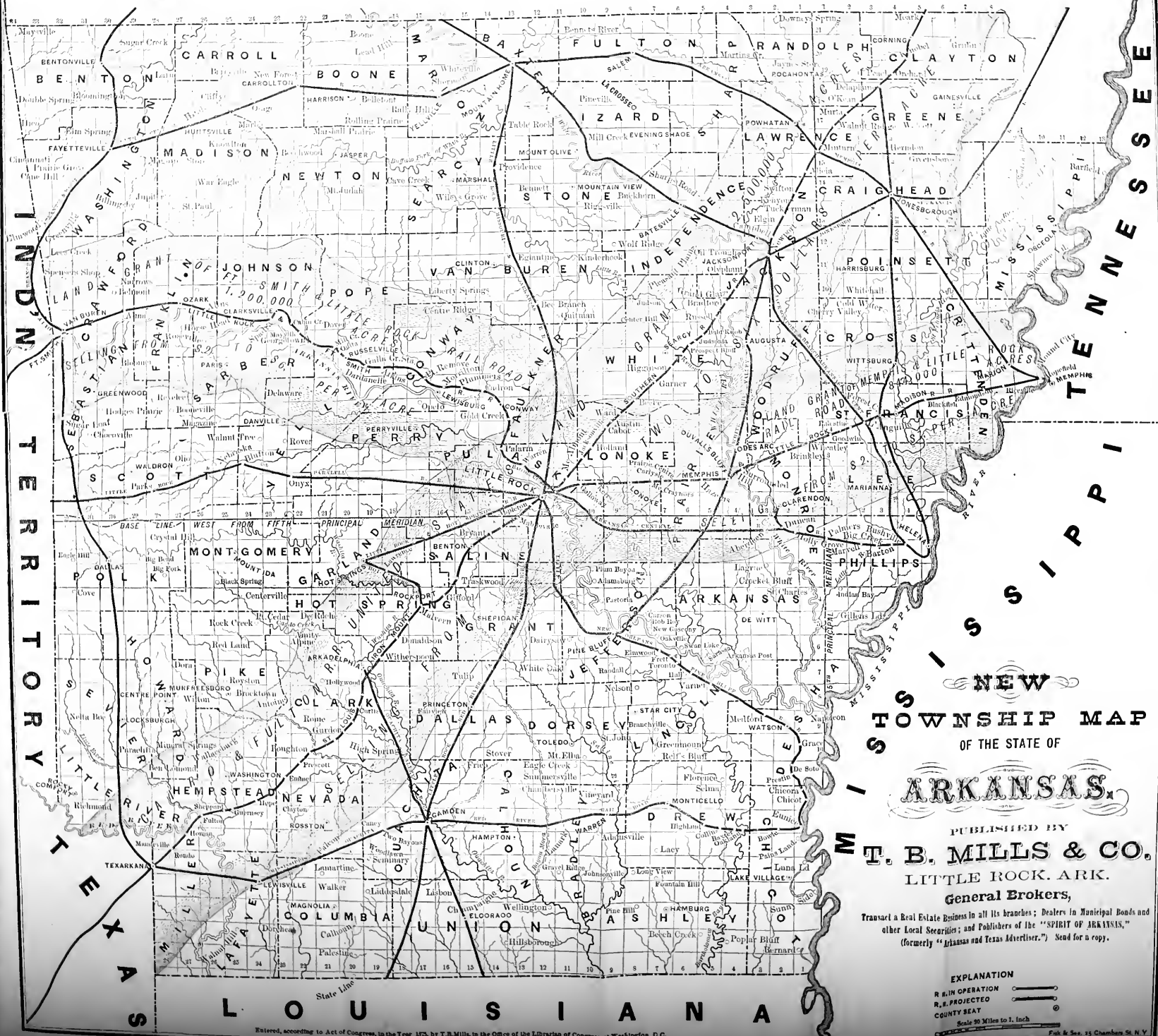


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# M I S S O U R I



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OF THE STATE OF  
**ARKANSAS.**

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# A HISTORY

OF THE

## NORTH-WESTERN EDITORIAL EXCURSION

TO

## ARKANSAS.

A SHORT SKETCH OF ITS INCEPTION AND THE ROUTES TRAVELED OVER, THE  
MANNER IN WHICH THE EDITORS WERE RECEIVED, THE RESOLUTIONS  
ADOPTED AND SPEECHES MADE AT VARIOUS POINTS. THE  
VIEWS OF THE EDITORIAL VISITORS TO ARKANSAS,  
AS EXPRESSED IN THEIR PAPERS.

BY

T. B. MILLS & CO.



2312.9

LITTLE ROCK:  
T. B. MILLS & CO., PUBLISHERS.  
1876.

F. 411

. 1165



Resolutions unanimously adopted by the members of the Editorial Excursion who visited Arkansas in September, 1875 :

WHEREAS, Having accepted the kind invitation extended by Col. J. M. LOUGHBOROUGH, Land Commissioner of the Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad Company, and Messrs. T. B. MILLS & Co., of Little Rock, to the press of the Northwest to visit the State of Arkansas, and having viewed its lands, conferred with its people and shared its hospitality, it becomes us to let our voice be heard; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the State of Arkansas, in "turning its back upon the past and looking forward to the future, forgetting all that is behind and pressing forward to the high mark that is before," has taken the highest rank in the sisterhood of States, and not only shown its loyalty to the old flag, its love for our common country and its desire to share one common destiny, but also its true realization of the fact that brotherly kindness will make Arkansas—with her delightful climate and untold wealth in its broad acres—one of the garden spots of America, to which the weary, hard-working, frost-bitten farmer of the North can turn with the hope of future comfort and happiness.

2. That we cheerfully commend the State of Arkansas to all in search of comfortable homes, knowing that her millions of acres are just as inviting, that life and property are just as secure as in any other State of the Union, and that a friendly greeting is awaiting all who may visit her towns or settle within the confines of her great commonwealth.

3. That our thanks are due and are hereby tendered to the Hon. THOMAS ALLEN, A. W. SOPER, Esq., Hon. J. M. LOUGHBOROUGH, T. B. MILLS & Co., Col. G. P. C. RUMBOUGH, the El Paso Stage Company, the Independent Stage Company, and the people of Little Rock, Hot Springs, Arkadelphia, Malvern, Walnut Ridge and others, who have, without reserve, enabled us to see all and judge for ourselves as to the advantages of their State; and we do not hesitate to declare our firm conviction that Arkansas is now one of the most inviting of our States for agricultural, mining and manufacturing pursuits.

That portion of the excursionists who traveled east on the Memphis and Little Rock Railway also adopted the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the representatives of the press be hereby extended to Capt. W. E. SMITH, Superintendent, and Col. M. B. PRITCHARD, General Manager of the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad, for placing a special train at our disposal to enable us to view that portion of the State east of Little Rock; and to H. L. TAGGART, Conductor, and THOS. HOOPER, Engineer, for their efforts to make our journey one of pleasure; and that we also feel deeply indebted to the citizens of Lonoke, Carlisle and Forrest City for courtesies extended to us.

Those who went westward over the Little Rock and Fort Smith Road adopted the following :

*Resolved*, That the heartfelt thanks of the Editorial Excursion from the Northwest are hereby tendered to the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad Company, to Hon. W. D. SLACK, their Land Commissioner, and Capt. THEO. HARTMAN, Superintendent, for their generous courtesies of a free train, an elegant repast, and their unremitting attention to render our visit pleasant. We also tender our warmest appreciation to Messrs. T. B. MILLS & Co., of Little Rock, for their efforts contributing to our enjoyment; also to the people along the line of this road for many kindly attentions, for which we wish them unbounded prosperity for the future.



## CHAPTER I.

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ARKANSAS has been the least known, and the most systematically misrepresented State, of the entire Union. Her soil, barren in some particular localities, in the greater part exhibits a richness and fertility not excelled—perhaps not equalled—upon the American Continent. Beside the valleys of the Arkansas, White, and St. Francis rivers, that of the Nile might almost be declared sterile, in the comparison. Her uplands produce grains and grasses which challenge the competition of the teeming States of the Northwest. Her mountains are capped by plateaus on which the papaw and the grape—sure indices of productive power—flourish in such luxuriance as is known, elsewhere, only upon the bottom-lands of streams furnishing an annual overflow. Upon the highlands of the Ozark, apples are grown, and cider pressed, which rival the products of New Jersey and New York. Her peaches and melons, in the first year of systematic cultivation, drove from the markets of St. Louis the fruit of Illinois and Indiana. Her cotton carries the premium over that of any other State of the Southwest. Her timber, in the opinion of competent judges, will in ten years furnish the navies of Europe and America with their best material. Her untold wealth of mineral resources, the rumors of which attracted the adventurous footsteps of De Soto before Smith had laid the foundations of Jamestown, or the Rock of Plymouth had been pressed by the Puritan, still proffer their scarce-touched treasures to the hand of capital. Her climate is that of Italy. Her vast area, and the interposition, in the center of her territory, of the great mountain range which divides the Northern from the Semi-Tropical Zone, affords such variety of products as California alone can equal. Her people, restless, as a population of brave men of necessity are and ought to be, under the hand of oppression, under their own rule have proved as orderly and law-abiding a community as honors the soil of any sister commonwealth. Her self-chosen rulers have shown themselves possessed of a wise conservatism, a generous and far-sighted liberality, and an energy and progressive spirit which encourages and protects that immigration which alone is needed in order to raise her to the full measure of her deserved prosperity.

With these advantages, it may seem strange that the reputation of the State, in every respect, has suffered at the hands of popular opinion in other sections of the country. The explanation is readily furnished. At the time of settlement,

Arkansas was a wilderness, farther removed, to all practical intents, from the centers of civilization, than Alaska now is. As always happens where the law, by reason of the scattered condition of population and the imperfect organization of authority, is necessarily powerless, its administration fell, at first, into the hands of the people themselves; and such administration of law is subject to sore abuse. An unfortunate and desperate rencontre between two members of the Legislature gave the cue to the cheap wits of the press; and from that day to this it has been the fashion, with them, to locate every apocryphal back-woods story in Arkansas, and to fill up the foot of a column with a scurvy jest at her expense. The practical remoteness of her territory, till yesterday untraversed by railroads, and the chance by which, even after the construction of railroads, the traveler was ushered to the Capital through the least inviting lands of the State, assisted in keeping the world in ignorance of her actual resources and true character. Then, as the crowning misfortune, came a period of years during which it was the interest of parties possessing the ear of the press and of the country, to misrepresent, most grossly, the social condition of her people.

With the close of that period, with the revival of peace, security, and the industry which only security can justify or create, began an earnest and organized effort, on the part at once of the State authorities and of private enterprise, to diffuse more just information respecting our social character and material resources. In direct contradiction of statements so industriously circulated thitherto, the intelligent public sentiment of our entire community turned, for the prospects of prosperity, to immigration, and especially to immigration from among the thrifty population of the Northwestern States. The direct road to the encouragement of immigration was through the advertisement of our actual condition and capabilities.

It was with this view that the firm of T. B. Mills & Co., conducting an extensive real estate agency at Little Rock, undertook the publication of the *Spirit of Arkansas*, a large newspaper entirely devoted to the publication of the resources of the State. Of this paper, thousands of copies were monthly distributed throughout the States of the Northwest. Carefully prepared articles, showing the incomparable cheapness and fertility of the lands of the State, the singular variety of its products, its wealth in timber and in minerals, the mildness of its climate, and the orderly character and hospitable sentiments of its people, induced inquiry among its host of readers. Numbers of home-seekers visited us, and returned delighted with what they saw. Their accounts brought others among us as visitors; until there grew up in most sections of the Northwest a general desire to know more of Arkansas.

The question then arose as to the best means of affording and giving circulation to the information so desired. Upon consultation with Col. James M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad Co., it was determined, the proper co-operation from railroad lines being first secured, to invite the editors of a large number of the papers of the Northwestern States to visit Arkansas in a body, and to make to their readers such report as they might see fit. The St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern

Railroad Company at once cordially endorsed the proposition, and lent to it its hearty co-operation, both in the proffer of free transportation from St. Louis and back, and in sharing with Messrs. Mills & Co. the other expenses of the occasion. The other railroads leading to the Capital, the Memphis & Little Rock, and the Little Rock & Fort Smith, also offered trains, and every facility to be desired.

The arrangements thus completed, Col. Loughborough (acting for his road) and Messrs. Mills & Co., issued invitations to 400 newspapers, to send their representatives to St. Louis, on the 28th of September, 1875; thence to be conveyed upon their journey by a special train of Pullman cars. Transportation to and from all portions of the State was offered to the visitors. A supplementary circular was issued by T. B. Mills & Co., explaining that the transportation to and from all points would be furnished without charge to the travelers, and that they would be treated as the guests of the various towns and cities visited after leaving St. Louis.

On the day designated, there were in St. Louis, in response to the invitation, the following named gentlemen, representing the papers named with them respectively:

- E. C. PRIBER, of St. Louis, *California Democrat*, San Francisco.
- F. O. WADSWORTH, *In Door and Out*, literary journal, Indianapolis.
- W. J. CRAIG, *Banner*, Bluffton, Ind.
- SAM. F. WINTER, *Democrat*, Huntington, Ind.
- H. H. ROBINSON, *Gazette*, Fort Wayne, Ind.
- J. N. GRESS, *Democrat*, Kokomo, Ind.
- P. S. PARKS, *Republican*, Martinsville, Ind.
- E. B. MCPHERSON, *Plaindealer*, Wabash, Ind.
- H. N. SKINNER, *Vedette*, weekly, and *Messenger*, daily (two journals), Valparaiso, Ind.
- W. B. CHEW, *Press*, weekly, Lawrenceburg, Ind.
- CORTEZ EWING, *Press*, weekly, Decatur, Ind.
- D. W. CHAMBERS, *Courier*, weekly, New Castle, Ind.
- J. S. BUSER, *Independent Press*, weekly, Bunker Hill, Ind.
- A. J. LAUGHLIN, *Star*, weekly, Green Castle, Ind.
- J. M. D. HAYS, *Banner*, weekly, Green Castle, Ind.
- F. T. HOLLIDAY, *News*, daily, Indianapolis, Ind.
- CLIFF M. BROOKE, *Mail and Magnet*, Plymouth, Ind.
- J. M. JACKSON, *Daily Times*, Peru, Ind.
- WM. R. NEWMYER, *Daily Advance*, Pittsburg, Penn.
- G. W. COLLINGS, *Patriot*, Rockville, Ind.
- DR. H. C. COATES, *Messenger*, Valparaiso, Ind.
- B. F. MEYER, *Times*, weekly, Chenoa, Ill.
- MILTON McCLOURE, *Enquirer*, weekly, Carlinville, Ill.
- R. W. ALLEN, *Herald*, weekly, Washington, Ill.
- PETER FIFER, of Washington, Ill., *Times*, of Pekin, weekly.
- A. M. SWITZLER, of Washington, Ill.
- R. G. ALLEN, *Transcript*, daily, Peoria, Ill.
- GEORGE F. CODD, *Land Owner*, Chicago.
- THOMAS S. NEWMAN, *American Bee Journal*, monthly, Chicago, Ill.
- E. N. HILL, *Inter-Ocean*, Chicago.
- SIDNEY THOMAS, *Literary Monthly*, Chicago.
- F. C. McCLENTHEN, *Times*, Chicago.
- C. AUG. HAVILAND, *Gem of the West*, literary, Chicago.
- J. R. MOSSER, *Republican*, daily, Decatur, Ill.
- S. S. JACK, *Tribune*, daily, Decatur, Ill.
- HENRY E. EVARTS, representing the *Review*, Girard, Ill., and *Journal*, Nilwood, Ill.

- S. P. TUFTS, *Democrat*, weekly, Centralia, Ill.  
 EDWARD GOODMAN, *Standard*, representing the *Northwestern Baptist*, Chicago.  
 D. J. EASTMAN, *Enterprise*, weekly, Sheldon, Ill.  
 B. F. MANN, *Constitution*, weekly, Elyria, Ohio.  
 W. H. FISHER, *Republican*, semi-weekly, Elyria, Ohio.  
 J. K. BARND, *American Patron*, Findlay, Ohio.  
 ALFRED F. MATHEWS, *North Ohio Journal*, weekly, Painesville, Ohio.  
 F. J. OBLINGER, *Commercial*, daily, Toledo, Ohio.  
 H. S. CHAPIN, *Sunday Journal*, weekly, Toledo, Ohio.  
 GEORGE F. MARSHALL, *Sunday Morning Voice*, Cleveland, O.  
 P. V. C. THILLY, *Volksfreund*, daily, Cincinnati, O.  
 J. A. DACUS, *Republican*, St. Louis.  
 C. E. STOKES, *Enterprise*, weekly, Dexter, Mo.  
 S. M. MARKLE, *Herald*, daily, St. Joseph, Mo., and *Birmingham*, (England) *Post*.  
 CHAS. GATZWEILER, St. Charles, Mo., *Monthly Gossip* and *St. Charles Cosmos*, weekly.  
 GEORGE W. BUCKINGHAM, *Gazette*, daily, St. Joseph.  
 JOSEPH E. WARE, *Mines, Metals and Arts*, St. Louis, and *Ware's Monthly Magazine*.  
 R. W. McMULLEN, *Democrat*, weekly, Hillsboro, Mo.  
 W. G. DILTS, *Register*, weekly, Ironton, Mo.  
 MAJOR GEORGE W. GILSON, *Globe-Democrat*, St. Louis.  
 CAPTAIN J. A. RUDD, *Times*, St. Louis.  
 H. S. HASCALL, *News*, Newport, Ark.  
 J. F. GUIWITS, *Midland Farmer*, St. Louis.  
 ERNEST P. OLSHAUSEN, *Westliche Post*, daily, St. Louis.  
 N. L. PRENTISS, *Commonwealth*, daily, Topeka, Kas.  
 JACOB STOTLER, *News*, weekly, Emporia, Kas.  
 W. S. BURKE, Leavenworth (Kansas) *Herald*.  
 H. B. CHURCH, *Blade*, daily, Topeka, Kas.  
 R. A. BEAL and wife, *Courier*, weekly, Ann Arbor, Mich.  
 DR. JAMES STIMSON, *Michigan Farmer*, Detroit.  
 WILL H. WILLIS, *Gazette*, weekly, Springfield, Ohio.  
 U. D. COLE, *Herald*, weekly, Huntington, Ind.  
 REV. W. A. CLARK, *Observer*, daily, Elkhart, Ind.  
 W. A. WEBBER, *Iowa State Journal*, daily, Des Moines.  
 W. KRIPPENSTAPEL, editor and publisher *Volksblatt* and *Omnibus*, daily, Louisville, Kentucky.  
 CHARLES JONAS, editor of the *Sclavie*, oldest Bohemian paper in the United States, Racine, Wis.  
 W. H. BISHOP, editor of the daily *Commercial Times* and *Journal of Commerce*, weekly, Milwaukee, Wis.  
 FRED W. WILLARD, *Commercial*, Leavenworth, Kas.  
 J. THRALL, *Zeitung*, weekly, Belleville, Ill.  
 G. W. WEIPPIERT, *Zeitung*, daily, Muscatine, Iowa.

Messrs. Loughborough and Mills were in St. Louis to receive their guests, and at nine o'clock on the evening of the 28th of September they were escorted to the depot of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, where a special train, consisting of four Pullman palace, one passenger and one baggage car, was in readiness for the party. On this train the editorial excursionists were soon embarked and rapidly speeding southward under the watchful care of their hosts, assisted by Col. Thomas Essex, Assistant Land Commissioner, Col. W. S. Hered, Col. Logan H. Roots and Col. E. N. Hill, of Little Rock.

The object of this book not being to give our own impressions, but to collate and lay before the public those of the visitors and the manner of their reception, we shall merely give an outline sketch of the trip, with the comments made by the various papers represented.



## CHAPTER II.

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### TO AND AT LITTLE ROCK.



NCE started, the first thing to be done was to assign to each guest his quarters, which was speedily accomplished, as the train rushed rapidly along the banks of the great father of waters, placidly illuminated by the moonlight. Before midnight most of the party were soundly sleeping, as the train sped on its way through Missouri. A bright, beautiful day ushered the party into Arkansas, giving promise of a pleasant trip. An excellent breakfast was found waiting the arrival of the train at Walnut Ridge, which is in Lawrence county, and thirty miles from the State line. At eight o'clock the train was off for Little Rock, stopping a few minutes at Newport, where Mr. H. C. Hascall, editor of the *Newport News*, joined the party. The first demonstration of welcome was at Judsonia, in White county, where the United States flag and some banners appropriately inscribed were waving over a crowd of ladies and gentlemen assembled on the platform. Here the Hon. Benjamin Thomas, President of Judsonia University, a large and flourishing Baptist institution of learning, came on the train and gave the visitors full information of the condition of his section. At Kensett, Col. Jake Frolich, of the *Searcy Record*, and Mr. R. H. Fielding, of the *Western Baptist*, were added to the party. At 2.20 P. M. the train arrived at Baring Cross, on the north bank of the Arkansas river, where the shops of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railway Company are situated, and all on board examined the beautiful cabinet constructed by some of the workmen, of native Arkansas timbers. Fourteen kinds of timber, namely, ash, beech, bois d'arc, cherry, cedar, cypress, gum, holly, hickory, oak, poplar, sassafras, yellow pine and walnut, were used in the making of this cabinet, and it is a marvel of beauty.

As the train approached the Union Depot at Little Rock, at two o'clock on the evening of the 29th, the inspiring strains of a band playing a welcome greeted the visitors, whilst hundreds of the leading citizens of the beautiful "city of roses" were on the platform waiting to receive and do honor to the representatives of the Press of the Northwest. It had been arranged that the editors should be the guests of citizens during the day, and should be formally

received at a banquet at nine o'clock in the evening. Carriages were in waiting, and the following named gentlemen each took a part of the guests to their houses for dinner: Messrs. R. B. Gress, O. S. Warren, C. S. Collins, John Stoddard, W. H. Winfield, S. L. Griffith, Geo. N. Walkley, Geo. B. Preston, Geo. E. Dodge, Wm. E. Woodruff, Jr., W. S. Davis, L. W. Coy, J. N. Smithee, Geo. W. Clark, M. W. Benjamin, E. W. Kimball, Thos. Lafferty, J. H. Haney, T. W. D. Yonley, Zeb. Ward, John King, R. W. Worthen, John McClure, Will. J. Murphy, Joe Wolf, Dr. McAlmont, John Wassell, S. R. Harrington, Sol. Clark, W. W. Wilshire, Geo. H. Hyde, Gen. Churchill, Gen. R. C. Newton, J. H. Cherry, J. R. Eakin, Sam A. Wiggins, A. W. Bishop, J. M. Loughborough, G. R. Farquhar, H. T. and E. W. Gibbs.

In the afternoon the visitors were shown about the city, visiting the State House, Arsenal, the grand display of agricultural products collected by T. B. Mills & Co., and other objects of interest. All of those who had not before seen "king cotton" on his native heath were taken to cotton plantations, in the rich lowland near the city, and viewed the process of "cotton-picking." At nine o'clock they were assembled at Concordia Hall, where a banquet had been prepared.

Assembled to receive them were the city officials, consisting of Hon. John G. Fletcher, Mayor; Judge R. S. Yerkes, City Judge; Hons. T. D. W. Yonley and E. P. Whipple, City Attorneys; Mr. Louis Rau, City Clerk; Mr. John L. Hicks, City Treasurer; Col. W. J. Murphy, Chief of the Fire Department; Mr. J. M. Blocker, Chief of Police; Col. Arnold Seyburg, City Engineer; and Aldermen George Reichardt, James Cook, J. Wolf, M. Hilb, G. W. Johnson, A. Hager, Wm. S. Davis, G. W. Thompson, M. Hickey, Ph. Pfeifer, D. G. Fones, A. L. Rush. The State officers present were General T. J. Churchill, State Treasurer; General R. C. Newton, Commander of the Militia; Hon. W. R. Miller, Auditor; Hon. J. N. Smithee, Land Commissioner; Hon. J. R. Eakin, Chancellor; Hon. E. H. English, Chief Justice; Adjutant General C. H. Wood; Hon. George E. Dodge, Centennial Commissioner, and Hon. U. M. Rose of the Finance Board; United States Senators Powell Clayton and S. W. Dorsey, and Congressman W. W. Wilshire were also present. The United States Army officers stationed at the Arsenal, Major S. A. Wainwright, Lieutenants Fred. Rozencrantz, T. W. Morrison and E. Cushman, all of the 16th Infantry, with the Hon. John McClure, ex-Chief Justice; Col. Henry Page, ex-State Treasurer; Hon. John G. Price, ex-Speaker of the House; Hon. S. R. Harrington, United States District Attorney; Hon. Sol. F. Clark, General Albert W. Bishop, Hon. M. W. Benjamin, Hon. John Wassell, Hon. W. E. Woodruff, Sr., Col. R. A. Howard, Major T. W. Newton, Major Wm. E. Woodruff, Jr., Hon. C. S. Collins, the Right Rev. Edward Fitzgerald, Bishop of Little Rock; Right Rev. H. N. Pearce, Episcopal Bishop of Arkansas; the Rev. Dr. Tupper, Rev. D. Block, Col. Zeb. Ward, Major John D. Adams, General B. S. Johnson, Col. S. H. Tucker, Dr. S. B. Dodge, Dr. W. W. Adams, Dr. P. O. Hooper, Dr. J. H. Lenoo, Dr. F. M. Chrisman, Dr. E. S. Jennings, Dr. A. L. Breysacher, Dr. J. J. McAlmont, Dr.

W. H. Naulty, Mr. S. L. Griffith, Gen. H. A. Pearce; Messrs. Theo. Hartman, George W. Hughes, H. C. Costello and J. W. Gay, of the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad; Messrs. M. B. Pritchard, R. K. Dow and J. D. Darden, of the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad; and Messrs. Geo. H. Meade, A. M. Crow, H. B. Stuart, Thos. B. Stout, A. H. Sevier, Lee Worthington, C. H. Cole, H. B. Dow, S. E. Blackburn, E. C. Newton, H. C. West, A. P. Curry, Charles Pencil, T. R. Welsh, R. E. Kernes, Booker Worthen, Isaac Pariera, L. Loeb, L. M. Levy, L. Volume, M. S. Weider, J. P. Henry, J. N. Brodie, C. T. Walker, R. A. Dowdle, J. W. Faust, N. Erb, J. Erb, E. Thuemler, E. Sanders, P. T. Smith, S. N. Marshall, J. H. Haney, R. W. Worthen, John Stoddard, W. H. Winfield, O. S. Warren, R. B. Gress, Geo. B. Preston, J. N. Walkley, L. W. Coy, Geo. W. Clark, Thos. Lafferty, G. W. Kimball, John King, J. C. Coates, S. A. Wiggins, L. A. Pratt, W. H. Hallett, George H. Hyde, J. H. Cherry, George A. Hughes, and some others were also present. All these gentlemen, with the excursionists and those who accompanied them, at 9.20 were ushered into Concordia Hall, where a splendid banquet was prepared. It was one of the largest and grandest ever given in the Southwest.

The spacious hall was decorated with the stars and stripes on every side. On entering the room, the motto "The Pen is Mightier than the Sword" first struck the eye. Over the orchestra was hung the handsome likeness of Mayor John G. Fletcher; to the left of him Col. "Sandy" Falkner, deceased, the old original Arkansas traveler; on the right, Major W. J. Murphy, Chief of the Fire Department. On the east side, in quotations, were the words "Young Man, go West," the sentence pointing south, of course, meaning via Little Rock. The decorations were put up under the direction of Lieut. Eugene Cushman, United States Army, and Mr. Edward Dwyer. The splendid music was furnished by the Little Rock Cornet Band, Al. Cunningham, leader, there being twelve pieces.

The feast was presided over by Col. J. M. Loughborough, who in a few felicitous words introduced Gen. R. C. Newton to the guests, as the native of the State selected to welcome them to its capital city. General R. C. Newton spoke as follows.

#### RECEPTION ADDRESS.

By permission, Mr. Chairman, I will, for convenience, address myself directly to our guests.

*Gentlemen of the Excursion Party:*—I have been requested, in behalf of the people of our State and city, to tender to you a welcome to our midst. Were it only the expression of my own feeling upon this occasion, I *know* how truly sincere and earnest that welcome would be; and I feel I am perfectly safe in assuring you that my own is also the sentiment of all those who greet you in your trip through our borders. The fact of the business is that we are *indeed* "glad to see you." [Applause.] Our cabin may be an humble one and our fare "rough," but the "latch-string hangs on the outside," and the

earnestness of our welcome must make amends for all deficiencies in the means at hand for rendering your visit a pleasant one.

We rejoice that we have eye-witnesses to the character of our soil, the nature of our climate, the customs, habits and condition of our people, the great natural gifts blessing this fair land of ours, rather than having to trust to what might be considered the too partial representations of friends, the contrary assertions of the unfriendly or of rivals, or the damning by faint praise on the part of the indifferent. It would be unbecoming in me to tell you gentlemen all that *we* think about these things. You are here to see for yourselves. *Our* duty is to give you a fair opportunity of knowing more of us, and assuring you of our great delight at this opportunity of being face to face with, and of grasping by the hand, the educators of public sentiment throughout that great Northwest of which you all are so justly proud. We know about your vast prairies, your rich fields of wealth, your prosperity — how rapidly your wide extended country has been made to thrive under the hand of your industry. We would emulate your example. That emulation shall be a generous one, for we feel that what yields your profit contributes to *our* prosperity also. We only “want a chance,” and without pulling down aught that is another’s, we would build up a prosperity here among us that shall be the pride of all, and to the participation in which all are most cordially invited. [Immense applause.] We can but remember that the same great river that “marches to the sea.” with the products of your soil, sweeps also the entire eastern length of our State; that the same “iron horse” that has proclaimed the advance of civilization and of American institutions throughout your borders, offers now his tireless energy to us, too. We all are bound to know that we have indeed interests in common. Accordingly, in our rude Western language, we want to “neighbor with you.” Miles *have* separated us, but space becomes as nothing at the touch of American enterprise and American “get-up-and-get go-ahead-ative-ness,” and when we know each other as we are, now commencing to do, then will we be neighbors sure enough. Why, we will step over and borrow your preserving kettles, every now and then, and your children can come over and slide on our children’s cellar door and swing on our gate. [Laughter and applause.] That’s what we are driving at! And we are selfish in it, too, it is true, in that we feel confident that when the great masses, of whom you are the teachers, and of whose sentiments you are the exponents, shall learn all about this State, its advantages, the sentiments of the people, the perfect feeling of security everywhere existing among us, then will a fair proportion of those seeking new homes avail themselves of the opportunities here offered for the investment of their means and the remunerative use of that muscle, pluck and energy for which this “universal Yankee nation” is so noted. And the emigrant from abroad, leaving the worn-out lands and worse than worn-out institutions of his native clime, will come amongst us, come with his wealth, if any he has, come anyhow, if poor, “with sandal shoon and scallop shell,” to be a self-made man among a self-made people. [Great applause.]

We want all this, and think our State will justify our high hopes for the future. You need not fear that you will have just cause of regret if you will but quit paying us visits, and the next time "come to stay." Come and help us enjoy the great prosperity spread out before us. You see our broad fields, now, in these autumn months, ready with their returns for the industry of our people. When the spring-time comes, and all nature is "wearing o' the green," do you all, and all your neighbors, friends, country cousins, and all, come Yankee doodling down this way, and, with us, "live and die in Dixie." [Enthusiastic and prolonged applause.]

After the guests had satisfied their appetites, Col. Loughborough announced the toasts prepared for the occasion, the first one being

#### "OUR GUESTS,

The honored representatives of the Press of the Great West. The State of Arkansas and the city of Little Rock extend to them their warmest and most cordial welcome, and while hospitality may rule the hour, they ask, nevertheless, that a careful inquiry be made during this visit of our guests into the resources of the commonwealth, to the end that Arkansas may be lifted, in the estimate of the other States, to the plane that rightfully she should hold and maintain."

This was responded to by Col. H. H. Robinson, of Indiana, representing the *Fort Wayne Gazette*, and Dr. James Stimson, of Michigan, representing the *Michigan Farmer*, of Detroit.

#### RESPONSE BY COL. ROBINSON.

*Mr. President and Gentlemen of Arkansas*:—It is an embarrassing privilege to speak thus unexpectedly for the Press, in answer to the very flattering sentiment proposed. The mission of your guests is one of kindly observation and fraternal greeting. We come, not with the implements of war and subjugation, but with the agencies of peace and benevolence—to illustrate, indeed, the motto so aptly inscribed upon yonder wall, that "the pen is mightier than the sword." The uniform attention we have received on the way to the capital assures us that the citizens of other States have your fraternal regard, and that you of Arkansas are built of the spirit of reconciliation. This superb banquet, spread for us as the representatives of the Press and people of the great Northwest, and the eloquent and cordial tone of the welcome your native orator has expressed, further attest your earnest desire for a broad and deep American fellowship. During this first day of our excursion through your State, we have seen many marks of the bounty of nature and the energy of man. Your genial atmosphere, your immense woodlands, rich fields of cotton and corn, and your picturesque landscape have won our admiration, and such an ovation as this closes our day with the treats of dream-land. I shall not check the flow of eloquence which is to follow the formal tender of thanks which I now make, in behalf of my editorial associates, for your lavish hospitality, by any discussion

of the scope and responsibility of the Press. Let me rather conclude with the assurance that we have so far found much to commend in the area we have traveled; that we expect increased satisfaction as our observation extends; and that the manifestations of favor from yourselves, from the people of Arkansas, shall have full recognition.

RESPONSE BY DR. JAS. STIMSON.

*Mr. President and Citizens of Arkansas:*—Called on as the representative of so able and influential a journal as the *Michigan Farmer*, and of the highly favored and well known "Peninsular State," to respond to the toast which has just been proposed, I am sorry that my present duties and responsibilities had not devolved on some one more competent to properly discharge them.

The exceeding kindness which I have received at your hands, and the very cordial reception extended by your citizens, reassure me, however, and encourage me to attempt a few remarks.

To the promoters of this Editorial Excursion, Messrs. T. B. Mills & Co., and yourself, on behalf of myself and of the interests I represent, as also, I am sure, on behalf of all my fellow-excursionists, it affords me great pleasure to offer heartfelt congratulations on its signal success.

Referring to matters of broader interest, I must also offer to you, and through you to all concerned, my sincere congratulations on your having accomplished the happy solution of embarrassing political problems, and the establishment of a stable government which is generally acceptable to all classes.

I congratulate you also on the bountiful harvest which the Giver of all good has been pleased to give in answer to the prayers and patient toil of your people, and am conscious I do but faintly reflect the gratitude which fills the breasts of all Arkansians when I thus publicly acknowledge the mercies of our Heavenly Father.

I congratulate you that peace and plenty have, under God, returned to your hearths and fields, and trust, as I pray, that they may always henceforth abide with you.

The foundations of your permanent prosperity are broadly and firmly laid. It only remains to you to build "wisely and well" through all time to come.

The deep interest I take in the development of the resources of your State will, I hope, Mr. President, procure your permission to offer a few words relative to matters which, to me at least, seem intimately connected with its well-being.

The past year has been, to you all, one of great material progress. But a short time ago the inhabitants of Arkansas were, in a large sense, "consumers"—now they are producers. Once they imported their food, or a large share of it. Now they produce it; and not enough for themselves alone, *but to spare*; and, for the first time in her history, Arkansas produces enough food to support her own people, and some over, to ship. In a few short months your

State and people have taken a vast stride forward; your condition has wonderfully changed for the better. The old state of affairs will never return. Arkansians have learned in the school of affliction and bitter experience, and come out of that school graduates in strength, wisdom, and self-reliance, happy in the enjoyment of their great political and agricultural success.

There remain, however, successes to be achieved in other fields. Yours is yet but a sparse population in comparison to your acres. *You need immigration*—you should achieve it. With wise forecast for the future prosperity of this State, the promoters of this Editorial Excursion are diligently making known to the outside world its great advantages, and striving, in every legitimate way, to divert to your vacant lands the full tide of immigration which other States have hitherto been receiving. Sure I am that Arkansians everywhere will but consult their own interest by “holding up the hands” of those who thus faithfully labor for the general good.

You also need manufactures. Blessed with most fertile lands and a genial clime, and encouraged by past success, you will be inclined to extend your field of agricultural operations, and your consequent production. Your natural tendency will be to produce largely in excess of what you consume. Learn a lesson from Iowa, whose chief trouble to-day, as it has been in the past, is that she has a large percentage of producers and a small percentage of consumers. As the remedy for such an undesirable state of affairs, let me direct your attention to the necessity for building up in all your centres of population or other favorable points, as fast as profitably can be done, manufacturing establishments of different kinds. Thus will you bring the producer and consumer into most direct relations, to their greatest mutual advantage, and provide markets for your products—raw or manufactured.

There is a class of products, Mr. President, which seem to me specially adapted to this and other Southern States, now, and in their certain future of prosperity—I refer to sugar, ramie, jute, and indigo. Sugar, perhaps, is not so well adapted to this State as to those nearer the Gulf, but it has done well in the southern part of the State, and all that I have named will do well there. These articles are partly raw products, partly manufactured. In the first three of them the processes of manufacture essential to their perfection are not complete, and yet they are sufficiently complete to make them marketable and exportable. In the case of the fourth, indigo, the process of manufacture is complete on the farm, as is the case with the Northern wealth-producer, cheese, and the manufactured article is fit at once to use at home or send abroad. Before the revolutionary war England's chief source of supply of indigo was her South American colonies. She paid a premium of twelve cents per pound on all the indigo imported from the colonies. The war of independence destroyed the market and manufacture of American indigo. And now England exports to us from her possessions in India two millions five hundred thousand dollars worth of indigo, annually, on which we pay fifteen per cent. duties. Is there any reason why the Southern States should not revive the production of indigo,

and keep our money at home? None whatever. So, too, with ramie and jute, valuable textile growths, to which your soil and latitude are well adapted, and for the improved preparation and partial manufacture of which Emile Le franc, Esq., of New Orleans, has done so much. So, too, with sugar, in a less degree. The advantage of production of these four articles consists in the fact that they can only be successfully grown in a limited portion of the Union—the South—and are largely consumed by all the Union, and by millions outside of it.

But I trespass on your patience and time. I had become so interested in what I believed to be for your good, that my sympathies ran away with due regard for the proprieties of this happy festive occasion. By my parting words I would remind you that time is an element in all reform or progress (sometimes a large element), and would exhort you to patient well-doing, for in due season ye shall reap all that is great, good, and glorious, if ye faint not.

The second toast was—

“THE PRESS OF ARKANSAS,

The hope and stay of the country. Swift to censure as to praise; it shapes public sentiment while it criticises public men, and is the foremost agency in drawing attention to the resources of a State, thus preparing the way for immigration, wealth and power.”

Response by T. B. Mills, Esq.:

*Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Press:*—On behalf of the Press of Arkansas, yet in its infancy, but one day to be strong, I bid you, one and all, a hearty welcome. You have already been welcomed to our State and city by a distinguished fellow-citizen of ours; but as one connected with the Press, I welcome you to the hospitalities of “our craft.” You will behold, with your own eyes, our mighty forests and vast water communication, our mineral resources and our fields of cotton and of corn, and so have other visitors before you; but they, on their return to their homes, have told of our resources and our salubrious climate only to a few, while each one of you will speak to thousands, and some to tens of thousands, concerning our State and its people. While it is true that *men* constitute a State, and that each State must very largely depend upon its own people for advancement and prosperity, yet such is the power of the Press, that no one element can help build up a State so rapidly as an enterprising Press. What, to-day, would be the condition of the world without a single newspaper, pamphlet or book? It would seem as though the very light of intelligence had gone out. Take away every book, destroy every newspaper, then science would decay, art would fade away, and every busy arm of industry would seem paralyzed and the world stand still. If, then, suddenly you should reproduce every press, replenish every library, and, thick as leaves of Vallambrosa, scatter the products of the Press again upon every home and hearth-stone, the whole earth, just now dead, would teem with life again, and all its vast and myriad



works go on once more. Surely the Press is the Archimedean lever which moves the world. To-day the Press is the great schoolmaster of the people, educating all mankind. It is the great medium of morals and religion too. Reverend divines may enunciate their peculiar doctrines from special pulpits, but the Press preaches to the world the universal religion of God to man; it exercises a greater influence over the customs of the people than did the Lictors of ancient Rome. The Press erects and pulls down thrones; it produces war and declares peace; it describes, with equal learning, the mechanism of a steam engine or the wheeling of a wheelbarrow; it establishes the salaries of Presidents and fixes the price of pins; it tells all about the jokes and jumps of the last circus, and of the decrees of the Ecumenical Council; and I believe that it will sell more land and do more to develop Arkansas than all other agents. Indeed, just for once, at least, I'd rather not see the sun rise in the morning than to miss my morning paper. More than two thousand years before the present era, the ancient Egyptians embalmed the remains of their dead, whereby they were preserved for our eyes to behold; but the Printing Press has gathered all the glorious memories of the past, all the noble acts and thoughts of the great and good of earth; the story of battles lost and won; how nations rose, flourished and fell, and all the hopes and aspirations of life, and has embalmed them in its priceless casket, which shall endure when the monuments and mummies of Egypt have passed away, and by which alone we shall know that Egyptians ever lived. An intelligent press is the greatest prop to constitutional liberty; and while the American Press shall be uncorrupted, while it shall be fearless, though partisan, while it shall stand erect, bowed down by the gold of no demagogue, I believe the liberties of our country are secure.

Gentlemen, I again bid you a fraternal welcome to our State, a State destined to shine full-orbed amid the brightest stars of our constellation. Peace and Plenty, twin sisters of the brightest civilization, now dwell together in Arkansas. No sectional strife exists amongst her people; all acrimony and bitterness has passed away. Upon her fair brow a garland of good government has been placed. In natural resources we are the peer of any State in the Union; and when, through the hundreds of voices of the Press, our advantages are fully made known, where now only hamlets are seen, towns and cities will spring up and thrive, and this capital city will become the center of a free, happy and prosperous State. This I believe to be the true "Spirit of Arkansas."

The third toast was—

#### "THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

"Fifty-three thousand square miles of territory, six navigable streams, timber in profusion, with prairie interspersed, cotton and the cereals—the product of the vine and the orchard abounding wherever cultivated—there is only needed the stimulus that immigration alone can give to place the State in successful competition with her now stronger sisters of the Northwest."

Responded to by Judge U. M. Rose :

*Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Excursion:*—When a friend requested me this morning to respond to the sentiment which has just been read, I consented to do so with the less reluctance because I thought that Arkansas was pretty able to speak for herself; particularly at this season of the year, when all her fields are white and golden with the bountiful productions of the earth. The subject is rather an extensive one, and probably I am too familiar with it to speak of it with that freshness which would most set it off. If I were to undertake to tell all that I know of Arkansas, I should have a longer story to relate than Mr. Stanley had of his adventures in going to the other end of the world, and away out into Africa, where he discovered Dr. Livingstone. I have been living in the State of Arkansas for about twenty-two years—a pretty good evidence that the country is not extremely unhealthy, for if it had been I should doubtless have been dead a good while ago.

When I immigrated to the State it had, I must confess, rather a bad name abroad for lawlessness—a name which was conferred upon it, however, by those who had the least knowledge of its condition; for I soon found that the laws here were enforced with as strict uniformity as in any other State of the Union, and that the people were as peace-loving and as orderly as in the older States. Perhaps the reputation which they had very unwillingly acquired served to put them somewhat on their good behavior. I found also a generous hospitality and a sincerity of friendship which would have gone far to sweeten life even in the most desolate wilderness; and so I have continued to live here, if with no great increase of prosperity, at least with such content as perhaps I could have attained to under any circumstances which are within the probabilities of my life.

It may be supposed by some that these years were marked by a want of general prosperity, but I think that this was not true. During the ten years intervening between 1850 and 1860 the wealth and population of Arkansas were more than doubled; and this fact I think makes a very fair showing for Arkansas, when it is considered that the institution of slavery repelled a large class of immigrants, and that in those days there was a grand empire on the northwest and south of us which was of easier access, and which bid very largely in the prevailing competition for wealth and prosperity. Had we continued in the same ratio of increasing material wealth, we should by this time have made a very good show alongside of our sister States. But the war came on, and for several years the index on the dial of our prosperity went backward; and after the war ended we became the victims of various vicissitudes which had a retarding effect on every enterprise. These things have all passed away, and in a few years will only be remembered as a matter of history. Rich in experience which older States might well envy, the State of Arkansas has entered upon a higher career. The first thought of perhaps every citizen is how we may best develop the munificent resources with which nature has endowed the land of our adoption; how we may add to the number of her productive acres, and make them most

contribute to the wants of our race ; how we may best advance the cause of civilization in which the world is engaged.

We have no doubt about the ample resources of the country, and the only need that we feel is that of a larger population. We need at least a hundred thousand immigrants, and that at once ; we are able to accommodate that number and to make it to their advantage to come and settle among us, and not only stalwart men to fell the trees, to explore and develop our mines, to expand all the industrial pursuits of the country, but the wives and little children of such to build up all the finer qualities of cultivated life and to fill up all our desolate places with light and joy. To those who are willing to put in their lot with us, we can offer a mild and equable climate, which is, perhaps, all things considered, unsurpassed on our continent, and such a variety of soil as must suit almost every fancy. If the immigrant wants a soil free from stones, where the science of geology would go mad, we can supply him with lands where he will scarcely find a large pebble within a circuit of fifty miles ; if it pleases him to procure lands of another description, we can provide him with territory where his eyes may rest on rocks of the largest size, and which give promise of great permanence and durability ; if he desire to plant his vineyards, fields or orchards on the slopes of salubrious mountains, he will have no trouble in suiting himself ; if his heart yearns for some more peaceful dwelling in some quiet valley, we can supply him with running streams where he may build him a tub-mill, and dream away his life, free from all the cares which pursue mankind in more active pursuits ; if he wants prairie lands, we shall also easily meet his demands ; and as for timber lands of the finest quality, he will have no trouble in providing himself with any quantity which his ambition may demand.

After you have seen the specimens of the products of the soil which have been exhibited to you, it will not be needful that I should dwell on the productiveness of our lands. It is a well known fact that our great staple, cotton, is a more certain and more remunerative crop in this latitude and in this soil than anywhere else on the globe. Cotton is a crop which is more readily convertible into money than perhaps any other, and this readiness of exchange into gold or any other commodity at a moment's notice has perhaps induced too exclusive attention to that crop ; but the farmers of our country have seen the error of their ways in this respect, and this year they have made ample provision for the staff of life as well, and such a feeling has set in among them on this subject, that I do not hesitate to predict that hereafter whoever raises provisions for Arkansas will raise them within the bounds of Arkansas, and indeed the most bountiful heavens invite us to do so. We are situated in a climate and possessed of a soil where all the cereals grow in the highest perfection ; not one of them has denied Arkansas for a home ; the luxurious growth of the grape bespeaks the land of the vine, and we are able to produce in the greatest profusion all the fruits of the earth, except those of tropical climes, and these grow nowhere in our country except along our Southern seaboard, and along the banana belt of Jay Cooke's Northern Pacific Railroad. We have also coal which will suffice to supply the

manufactories which shall eventually work up all our products, and also to fill all the orders of our less favored neighbors for centuries to come. We ask all who are interested in these things to come and see for themselves, and not to take our word for anything; not to go flying along our railroads, which invariably run through the poorest and most thinly settled parts of the country, but to go out with the leisure which the great subject of a change of home demands, to get acquainted with our farmers, and see and judge for themselves.

But in doing so any serious delay would be most unwise. The dark shadow of war has been lifted from the land; a season of renewed peace descends on the soil like a benediction. Those who first come will be rewarded for their diligence, as only the diligent are rewarded. Investments in lands here at this time cannot under any circumstances prove unprofitable. I was reading the other day in some book on the subject of population that at the present rate of increase of the human family, in two thousand years there will be one man for every square yard of dry land on the face of the earth. I am very far from wishing to overstimulate the market for real estate, but I cannot help but suggest that when the population becomes so dense that we shall find a man on every square yard of dry land, there is but little doubt that lands will command a much higher price than at present, nor do I fear to say with equal confidence that a few months will make a very great difference in the prices, and that difference will be to the disadvantage of the tardy immigrant.

And in conclusion, gentlemen of the excursion, let me say that it affords us a sincere pleasure to see you amongst us; we desire that you should be pleased with us, and with our country, and that you, after having seen for yourselves, may return with none but agreeable memories; and when you shall be again in your own homes, if you are pleased to advise any of your friends to come down and settle in a milder climate, you may truly add that, aside from all material benefits which may result from such a step, there is nowhere in the world where they will receive a warmer and more kindly welcome than here in Arkansas.

The fourth toast was —

#### “THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK.

“What she needs is manufactures. May our editor friends so tell this to the North, that capital will not fail to come here, giving growth to the city while it enriches itself.”

Responded to by Hon. T. D. W. Yonley.

[We regret not having received a copy of Judge Yonley's able speech.]

The fifth toast was —

#### “THE STATES REPRESENTED BY OUR GUESTS.

“Situated, like Arkansas, in the Valley of the Mississippi, their interests are our interests, and we rejoice in this opportunity of cementing a friendship that we trust will increase abundantly as the nation grows old.”

Response by Hon. W. W. Wilshire.

*Mr. Chairman:*—The ideas contained in the toast are too extensive to be discussed as they should be in the time usually occupied on such occasions. I will content myself by alluding to one thought suggested, and that was the question of cheap transportation; one that has been much discussed, and has attracted a great deal of attention of late, and one, I think, in which all of the States of the Mississippi Valley could unite. It is a question of great importance to the people of all the States bordering on or tributary to the great "Father of Waters." The Mississippi river drains a country extending from the Alleghanies on the east to the Rocky Mountains on the west, and from the British possessions on the north to the Gulf of Mexico on the south, embracing an area equal to more than one-half of the territory of the Union. It is of the first importance to all the people of the States situated in the Valley of the Mississippi, to have that great national thoroughfare, with its various tributaries, passing through, as they do, every State and Territory lying in this great and fertile valley, so improved as to enable the people to transport their immense and varied productions to the marts of the world at less cost than they do now. This done, and a community of interests between the people of the great Northwest and the Southwest will follow, that will create a bond of union eternal and inseparable. The improvement of these great means of water transportation cannot much longer be neglected; they were designed by the God of nature to be thus used by us, and it is only left for us to utilize the means He has provided for us to be a happy and prosperous people.

A look at the map of those States: the Mississippi river and its tributaries reminds one of the arterial system of the human form, reaching out into every part of those States and Territories fructified by them; most of them only wanting that attention of, and aid by, the National Government that is due to the people living along them, to make them available for the transportation of the products of that vast country which the commerce of the whole nation so much demands. Already, under the wise provisions of an act of the last Congress, an improvement is being made at the mouth of the Mississippi that promises to exceed the expectations of the most sanguine advocates of the measure. I confidently believe that when that improvement shall be completed, the largest vessels of commerce that float on the high seas will be enabled to pass far up that great inland sea of America. That done, and its various tributaries, that are susceptible, made navigable, the best markets of the world will be thrown open directly to the producers of this great valley.

This is a question of peculiar interest to the people of Arkansas, second in importance only to that of inducing the good people of the Northern and Western States, as well as the balance of the world, to come and settle among us, and enjoy with us the benefits of our mild and beautiful climate, and cheap and productive land, which have been so well described by others here to-night. Being a Northern man myself, a native of Illinois, I think I can speak under-

standingly to our guests, as to the character and disposition of our people, and I feel perfectly assured in saying to them to-night that they can go home to their respective States, and, through the powerful medium of the press, say to their people that such of them as, for *climatic* or other reasons, may desire to come to Arkansas, will meet with a most cordial and hearty welcome. We want the intelligence, muscle and money of the Northwestern farmer and mechanic, to help us to develop the vast and unexampled resources of this State, and in return for it we will give them the most productive lands on the continent, at astonishingly low prices; a better climate than any State in the Union, and as perfect and complete protection to life and property as is afforded anywhere.

Response by Capt. U. D. Cole, of Huntington, Indiana :

Capt. Cole rejoiced at the hearty reception accorded to the excursionists, and felt, if there were any prejudices existing among the Northern people, such demonstrations were certain to dispel them. There was, in this welcome, evidence of a purpose to restore the amicable relations which should subsist to make a country great and prosperous. When the people of the North can come here and be received and entertained in so friendly and hospitable a manner as we have been, it is manifest that the true spirit of reconciliation and reconstruction animates the people here. From his observations since he had entered the State, Capt. Cole paid a high tribute to the boundless resources of Arkansas. While cotton had been recognized as king, there were other equally as compensating productions. The minerals of the State, the manufacturing facilities, the inviting field for stock-raising, were ready to pay capitalists largely on their investments. The speaker predicted that in the common purpose of her citizens was the lever which would lift Arkansas to the plane to which she belongs.

Response by R. A. Beal, of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The sixth toast was—

#### “THE JUDICIARY OF THE STATE.

“Its *integrity* is our protection, for without a wise and incorrupt interpretation of law, all else that may be done will neither hold the State together nor secure the prosperity of the individual.”

Response by Chief Justice E. H. English :

It is true, Mr. Chairman, that the life and perpetuity of the State, as well as the prosperity of her citizens, very much depend on the integrity, wisdom and learning of the judiciary.

In the frame-work of the American government, the judicial was wisely separated from the legislative and executive departments, and, all things considered, is the most important of the three departments.

The judges are the guardians of the Constitution, and are not only charged with obedience to it themselves, but with the delicate duty of seeing that it is not infringed by those who make the laws or those who execute them.

The importance of the judiciary is at once perceived when we think of a government with legislative and executive departments, but without courts. Where would crime be punished, and life, liberty and property find protection? To whom would the weak and the helpless appeal against the strong? Who would protect the Constitution against willful or inadvertent infractions? In times of partisan strife, when passion overcomes the sober judgment of men, who would protect minorities in their chartered rights?

Charged with such important trusts, rightly does the sentiment to which I have the honor of responding, indicate that *integrity* should be a cardinal virtue of the judiciary.

It was a beautiful conception of the artists of the olden times to represent justice as a goddess blindfolded, so as not to see the parties litigant, and holding in her hand a pair of scales nicely balanced.

But however honest and just, a judiciary would be much at fault, as also well indicated by the toast, without *competency*, or wisdom and learning. For a disposition to decide right would be of little avail to the State, or to her citizens, interested in the administration of the law, without a knowledge of what the right is. An incompetent judge may do great injustice and inflict wrong unintentionally. His heart may be right, but his head may lead him astray.

In our State, as in most of the States, of recent years, the people elect their own judges. If they make bad selections, it is their own fault, for there are in all of the States plenty of good, honest lawyers to select from. Whatever cross-grained people may say to the contrary, there is no doubt but lawyers, in all ages and countries, have generally been men of integrity, learning, and conservative in their sentiments.

In the midst of revolutions, when the masses have run wild with passion, and been disposed to tear up the very foundation stones of all good government, lawyers and judges have stood like great rocks among the waves, and checked the tide of passion. A good bar makes a good bench.

Many lawyers become editors, and their considerate and conservative habit of thought has a wholesome influence upon the press. Perhaps most of our distinguished guests to-night have been disciples of Blackstone, Kent, Story, etc.

Our State judiciary has only been organized for thirty-seven years. It may be said to be in its infancy, like the State, though some of the judges have reached the autumn and are approaching the winter of life. Most of the judges have been of the wilderness lawyers, who rode the circuit, swam the bayous, slept under the oaks, and displayed their forensic eloquence in log-cabin court-houses. They had not many books, but, like the lawyers in the days of Bracton and Fleta, they hammered out the law of their cases from elementary principles. We have more books now, and the lawyers and judges have more comforts on the circuit, and travel a good deal faster on railroads than they used to do on horseback.

I think that I may safely say to our guests that they may truthfully represent to the people abroad, through their ably conducted presses, that crime is

punished, and life, liberty and property are protected by the judiciary of Arkansas; and, in the administration of the law, the judges do not distinguish between the stranger or new-comer and the oldest inhabitant, but that all are alike regarded. And I think I may also say to our distinguished guests, in the name of bench and bar, that we are pleased to see them amongst us, and hope they may return to their homes favorably impressed with our new and growing State.

The seventh toast was—

#### “THE COMMON SCHOOL SYSTEM.

“Without it a nation cannot permanently prosper; with it the success of free institutions is placed beyond peradventure or doubt.”

Responses by Col. L. H. Roots, of Little Rock, and Edward Goodman, representing the *Legal Examiner and Literary Monthly*, of Chicago, Illinois.

#### RESPONSE BY COL. LOGAN H. ROOTS.

*Mr. President:*—If I understand the toast correctly, it is a subject of such immense magnitude that no rational creature, without a single moment for preparation, would presume to speak upon it before such an intelligent and critical assemblage as is now present. And you know, sir, that I had not the slightest previous intimation of being called upon.

As you called upon me, I was conversing with my esteemed friend, the Chief Justice, concerning the toast to which he has just read such an able response, and he was telling me that he had been spoken to about it so late in the day that he was compelled to either write his remarks, make a failure, or “be sick.” Now, good sirs, look at my attenuated person—only weighing 220 pounds, and my excuse as being sick will plead itself. [Laughter.]

Having traveled in company with our distinguished guests from St. Louis, they have heard enough from me already, and I have heard enough from them to know that I am depriving all of a rare treat so long as I delay the opportunity for you to hear from some of them. So I shall make no speech. Yet I take pleasure in assuring our visitors that we Arkansians appreciate the benefits of education; we know its necessity, and will strive to secure its blessings for our posterity and successors. To you, good sirs, who have been reared in the land of long-established free schools, we say, “come and help us.” Our land is broad enough, our soil rich enough, our climate genial enough to add a loud chorus to our invitation. While Arkansas may not now lead older States in educational opportunities, we have schools that in their completeness and excellence would astonish many of you, and with the united efforts of you and ourselves, we may acquire and enjoy a population with facilities for the promotion of education absolutely unsurpassed.

#### RESPONSE BY EDWARD GOODMAN.

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:*—In behalf of the delegation present, I thank you for your generous hospitality and cordial greeting of the citizens of Little Rock.



Soon, very soon, this company of delighted travelers will be scattered to their different homes in the North, but back with them to the shores of our northern lakes they will carry sweet recollections of your sunny clime, of the banquet at Little Rock, of the festival at Hot Springs, and last, but not least, of the grand old-fashioned barbecue with which you have just surprised us.

I shall not attempt on this occasion to eulogize the State which I came to criticise, but which I have so suddenly learned to love. I must confess to you that the place in my map of the United States, which is marked Arkansas, I have been accustomed to regard with indifference, nor had I ever dreamed of the wealth of its resources, and the attractions of its scenery and climate, until, through the management of your enterprising citizens, Messrs. Loughborough and Mills, the wonderful advantages of your State suddenly burst upon my sight in all the splendor of an autumnal daybreak. Your deep rich soil; your magnificent navigable rivers; your forests of oak, hickory and walnut; your orchards of apple, peach and pear trees; your gardens of berries, melons, grapes and figs; your fields of cotton, corn and sweet potatoes; your mines of iron, coal, zinc and lead; your wonderful curative springs—all these advocate your cause with an eloquence that surpasses speech, and will soon, if not already, spread your fame throughout the habitable globe.

In 1837 your State of Arkansas and my native State of Michigan were both admitted into the Federal Union. Perhaps I cannot better indicate what the future of Arkansas must be than by briefly alluding to what Michigan is. By comparison, Michigan loses in size, in climate and in fertility, and yet, in the light of what Michigan has done with what advantages she does possess, you may catch a glimpse of that great destiny which surely awaits the Arkansas of the future. At the last election Michigan polled 221,000 votes; Arkansas, less than 90,000. Michigan has a population of 1,250,000; Arkansas, less than 500,000. Michigan sends 320,000 children to the common school; Arkansas, less than 63,000. The taxable property of Michigan is \$272,000,000; that of Arkansas, something more than one-half that amount. The forests of Michigan have been subdued, and with them the chills so universally attendant upon the settlement of a new country; in Arkansas, the wooded hills and plains still afford a safe shelter for the deer, the bear, the coon, the possum and the wild turkey. The mines of Michigan, now in a high state of development, yield an annual return of \$15,000,000; while those of Arkansas are almost as completely unreclaimed as when by unseen hands they were hidden away "in the solemn midnight centuries ago."

The rapid advancement of Michigan is owing, first, to timely immigration, and secondly, to an unequalled system of education. Years ago, while Arkansas lay in silence on the west bank of the Mississippi, comparatively unknown, the sons and daughters of New England, New York and Pennsylvania were moving by hundreds and by thousands to take possession of the beautiful peninsula of the lakes, Michigan. I see them now as they take a last and long farewell of their childhood homes. The hour of departure has come. Never again shall their loving eyes rest upon the green banks of the Susquehanna, the Mohawk, the

Hudson, the Connecticut and the Merrimac. Some cross lake Erie, where Commodore Perry became immortal; while others, in covered wagons drawn by ox teams, wend their pilgrimage along its southern shore through the ancient possessions of Tecumseh the Indian warrior.

And now, in the very beginning, they have laid deep and broad the guarantys of universal education; and the result to-day is, a school-house in every district, academies in every county, agricultural, normal, medical, theological and legal colleges throughout the State, and above them all, a university which is actually contesting the lessons with old Harvard and Yale. What Michigan is, Arkansas shall be, and more. Like Michigan, the foundations of her society were laid by the descendants of those who in the first American Revolution fought bravely for liberty on the battle-fields of Saratoga, of Brandywine, and Savannah; who suffered in British prison-ships, and famished and froze at Valley Forge, and who finally joined in the exultant shout of victory which rose above Yorktown's closing fight. Michigan and Arkansas are sister States. They were wedded to the Union the same year, and therefore their children are first cousins. Though Michigan may boast the most numerous family, Arkansas can justly claim the equality of her children in patient endurance, in deliberate courage, in true fidelity to principles, in treasuring in their heart of hearts the memory of our common ancestry, our common language, our common religion, our common country and our common flag. Our delegation have had an opportunity to see very much of your State and of your people, and it is but a slight indication of our feelings when I say that we are delighted with both. We have been received by you in a most generous manner; you have literally extended to us the right hand of fellowship, and conversed with us somewhat on the subjects nearest your hearts—of your homes, your families, your business, and your hopes for the future.

This delegation represents in a great measure the religious, commercial and literary press of the North, rather than the political. Our observations will be read around thousands of Northern firesides without distinction of party, and believe me that in no instance will the social worth of your people or the natural greatness of your State suffer at our hands. In conclusion, I cannot better express the feelings of every one of us than by repeating the lines of Scotland's famous poet:

“ When death's dark sea we ferry o'er,  
A time that surely shall come,  
In Heaven itself we ask no more  
Than just a Southern welcome.”

The eighth toast was—

#### “ AGRICULTURE,

The primitive occupation of man, and to-day the chiefest. In inducements to till the soil Arkansas is not behind her sister States, and all that is needed is to make her capacities known, as editors alone can do it.”

Responses by Gen. J. M. Pomeroy, of Little Rock, and Mr. Thomas S. Newman, of *American Bee Journal*, Chicago, Illinois. The responses not being received, we are unable to print them.

The ninth toast was—

“THE MECHANIC ARTS.

“We need the forge and the anvil; the plow and the loom, and with proper encouragement, the manufacturing for the Southwest can be done in the Valley of the Mississippi.”

Responses by Gen. A. W. Bishop and W. J. Craig, of Bluffton, Indiana.

RESPONSE BY GEN. A. W. BISHOP.

*Mr. President and Gentlemen:*—I much regret that I cannot speak to you as a practical mechanic. I might possibly whittle a stick *a la mode*, though I am rather skeptical myself in that direction. I claim, however, to be in the most complete accord with this toast and the accompanying sentiment. I have given the subject of the development of the mechanic arts in the South some thought, and while it may perhaps be but the expression of a truism to say that we need the forge and the anvil, the plow and the loom, it is no vain boast to declare that, with proper encouragement, the manufacturing of the Southwest can be done in the Valley of the Mississippi. The timber, the water, the raw material, the markets are here, and at the touch of capital the forests will melt as the dew disappears when the sun marches out of the morning.

Crossing the river this noon, by invitation, to meet our guests upon the farther bank of the Arkansas, I stepped, while waiting the arrival of the train, into the shops of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railway, where was being constructed a cabinet of timber grown entirely in this State. It was nearly finished, and was a most beautiful specimen of mechanical skill. It was intended, I learned, for exhibition, first at the coming Fair in St. Louis, and then at the Centennial. The kinds of timber used were ash, beech, bois d’arc, cherry, cedar, cypress, gum, holly, hickory, oak, poplar, sassafras, yellow pine and walnut, and certainly these woods had never taken more attractive form. The conspicuous red of the cedar, the clear white of the holly, the rich, dark-brown of the walnut rivalled the painter’s art, and another trophy was borne away by nature. I felt proud of the State of my adoption. I could see in that cabinet, as any one else could see, possibilities of which we have as yet a very inadequate conception. A million times over that exquisite piece of workmanship could be reproduced in Arkansas, and yet her forests would stand well-nigh as they now stand, thick, lofty and umbrageous, an invitation to the capital of other States, and a sure reward for the industry of the mechanic.

We buy our agricultural implements from other States; we can make them ourselves. We send to New England or abroad for our cotton and woolen goods; we can manufacture them here. And so for *all* the Southwest, to come again to the sentiment of my toast, its manufacturing can be done in the Valley of the Mississippi.

Gentlemen of the Press of the West, we ask you to look for yourselves. Take nothing for granted. Scrutinize closely. If there is any pretension here, lay it

bare. We greet you with warm hearts. We rejoice at your coming, but when you leave us, I trust, for one, that you will not simply hold in memory the kindly reception that we desire to give you, but will carry to your homes and lay before your readers impressions of a State which is as rich as it is obscure, and only needs the stimulus that immigration, capital and labor can give to advance it to the forefront of wealth, influence and power.

[Having received no copy of Mr. Craig's speech, we are under the necessity of omitting it.]

The tenth toast was—

#### "THE MINERAL WEALTH OF THE SOUTHWEST.

"It is here—copper and zinc, coal and iron, silver and lead—and with capital to develop it, there can be no surer return, no richer reward."

Responded to by Senator Powell Clayton, of Arkansas, and Professor Joseph E. Ware, of St. Louis, Mo.

[Neither of the speeches of these gentlemen have been received, and we cannot therefore publish them.]

The eleventh toast was—

#### "THE ST. LOUIS, IRON MOUNTAIN AND SOUTHERN RAILROAD.

"All hail to the enterprise of its officers, who have made this excursion possible, and have already done so much with their road for the development of the State."

Responded to by Col. James M. Loughborough.

[The publishers regret that no copy of the excellent address of Col. Loughborough has been received.]

The twelfth toast was—

#### "THE GREAT NORTHWEST.

"Its labor and capital are invited to the State of Arkansas. Both will be protected in all their rights."

Response by Col. D. W. Chambers, of New Castle, Indiana:

In response, I may say that we feel your invitation is in good faith. The fact that we are here to-night at your request to see your city and State, the manner of our reception by persons of all political opinions—if, indeed, distinction can be made in this, the more hearty welcome coming from late Confederate soldiers and their beautiful wives and daughters—the great circulation in our Northern country which T. B. Mills & Co. and J. P. Henry & Co. have given their respective papers, *The Spirit of Arkansas* and the *Real Estate Advertiser*, with the universal approbation of all your people, and the free distribution, at the expense of your State government—now in the hands of that class of your citizens who are at the North sometimes erroneously supposed to want no emigra-

tion, unless from the older States of the South—of books and maps giving accurate information of the great natural resources of Arkansas, are conclusive proof that all of your citizens earnestly desire emigration from the great States of the Northwest represented here to-night. We, therefore, upon returning home, shall take great pleasure in saying to the people among whom we live: It is safe to emigrate to Arkansas; neither you nor your wives nor your daughters will be ostracized from the position in society your merit entitles you to occupy. And we shall also say that Arkansas is surely the garden spot of America to-day for the rich or poor of the North who would seek a more genial clime. Here the Hoosier or the Sucker may enjoy his hog and hominy, his golden fields of wheat, of a quality unexcelled on the globe, all other cereals of the North, his small fruits, his apples, his grapes, not surpassed by the finest of France or Spain, and pears that excel in size and flavor the best specimens of California; and, in a word, the Northern emigrant here may retain and will be surrounded by all the luxuries of life with which his intimate association from childhood has led him to believe are indispensable necessities to human happiness. And he will add to all these many fruits unknown in the North; and, above all, he will find himself in the midst of snowy fields of cotton, which, by reason of cheap transportation to all parts of the globe, and of a universal demand for the same by all civilized nations, is the most valuable of the staple products of America, always commanding the shining gold that chinks, or, better still, the greenback which preserved intact the American Union—which happy preservation, permit me to say, by way of digression, is a matter over which all to-night rejoice.

We find an equally warm heart and kindly hand extended to us as representatives of Northern people by natives of the Sunny South, and by men who have sought their homes here since the late war.

Were I to-night speaking to an audience of late Federal soldiers, instead of to citizens of a rising city of the South, I would say, come to the State of Arkansas. Here you will find in your late enemy in war, your truest, noblest friend in peace; and that in the next war, come from whence it may, the blue and the gray will stand side by side.

The small farmer of the North, on his forty or eighty acre farm, who barely makes enough during the summer to subsist upon during the following winter, his land being worth from forty to one hundred dollars per acre, can come here, and with what his land will sell for at the North, can purchase four times the number of acres here, every acre of which will make him a clear profit of more per year than the forty or hundred dollar land he has exchanged it for; and, moreover, here he finds a climate in which it is pleasant to labor out doors every month in the year, whilst in what is known as the Northwestern States there are at least three months in the year in which no man can possibly labor outside of a warm shop.

United States statistics of 1870 show that improved farm lands in Arkansas pay six hundred per cent. on their valuation, whilst in the great agricultural

States of Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and New Jersey, throughout the North regarded as the paradise for agriculturists, produce per year less than one hundred per cent. on their valuation.

To the capitalist, Arkansas is a more inviting field for investments in real estate or manufactures than any other part of the country. Here you have the coal, the iron, the cotton, and rivers furnishing unparalleled cheap water power in close proximity with these great natural advantages. It is not too much to say that in cotton manufactures it will not be many years till Arkansas will be the rival of New England, and in the manufacture of iron will be the equal of Pennsylvania. And I may safely add that in consideration of your mild climate, and the millions of acres of semi-mountainous and cheap lands in the northwestern part of the State, that this is the proper home of the sheep, and, therefore, in the production of wool and its manufactures, no country has greater possibilities before it.

To the commercial man, where in America is there a brighter opening than the city of Little Rock? It is already a railroad center, and in the very near future will rival Indianapolis or Chicago in the great advantages derived from these modern arteries of trade. Many of us here to-night will no doubt live to see your beautiful city, situated on many hills, rejoicing in a population of one hundred thousand people unsurpassed in education, sentiment and all the virtues that constitute a noble manhood.

Allow me to say, in conclusion, that for many years I have regarded Arkansas as the future Italy of America, and that henceforth I shall feel it my duty to say to the emigrant, go to Arkansas, and there you will find a lovely climate, a fertile soil, noble men and beautiful women.

## CHAPTER III.

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### HOT SPRINGS.



AT TWO o'clock on the morning of the 30th, the excursion train left the Union Depot for Malvern, the station on the Southern road from which the narrow gauge road is being built to Hot Springs. Among the invited guests who accompanied the excursion South, were the following prominent citizens of Little Rock: Sheriff H. H. Rottaken, Judge McClure, Senator Dorsey, Lieutenant Eugene Cushman, Col. Logan H. Roots, J. H. and M. T. Howe, H. T. Gibb, George E. Dodge and Mr. Warren. Daylight found the train at Malvern, and after an early breakfast, which had been ordered by Messrs. Loughborough and Mills, Col. G. P. C. Rumbaugh, Chief Engineer of the Hot Springs Railroad, had a train of platform cars, on which seats had been placed, ready to transport the party as far as the track on the road was laid. The open air trip over the nine miles of railroad, seated on the platform cars, was enjoyed by all. At the end of the road conveyances prepared by the citizens of Hot Springs, and in charge of a committee, composed of Messrs. I. M. Huffman, E. W. Rector and H. P. Thomas, were in readiness, and at two o'clock in the evening the party arrived at the Springs. Every preparation that a most lavish hospitality could suggest had been made for their reception, an account of which we take from the Hot Springs *Telegraph*.

Ample preparations had been made for the reception of the editors of the Great West. Transportation had been provided to convey two hundred of them from the terminus of the Hot Springs Railroad to this place. The day was windy and cool, but the sun hot.

Cols. Huffman and E. W. Rector, and Mr. H. P. Thomas, the committee appointed, met them in the forenoon and escorted them to the city, where they arrived about half-past one, and were assigned to the various hotels which had tendered hospitalities, where sub-committees made them welcome. The dust brushed off and washed down, they dined.

After dinner they rambled about the places of interest unmolested, except those who happened to be at the Park when Mr. Castle turned the bear loose to give him a fair chance with the dogs that baited the bear, for a dog and bear

fight for their amusement. Upon the liberation of the bear we believe the passing street car became suddenly filled with excursionists. After supper "our guests," as they were labeled with blue badges presented by the committee of reception, assembled at the Arlington Hotel, and at nine A.M. assembled together with them about two hundred ladies, in party dress, in the spacious dining hall of the hotel. To the carpeted platform at the end of the hall, opposite the main entrance, for the double purpose of a stand for musicians and for the speakers, Col. Loughborough, Col. T. B. Mills, and Col. Harrell, who was to deliver the address of welcome, were invited by Col. Elon G. Smith, chairman of the committee of arrangements. The ladies were seated at the sides of the platform and around the hall, the gentlemen standing. Col. Smith, of the committee, then introduced Col. Harrell, who delivered the following

#### ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

*Gentlemen:*—On the part of these fair ladies and generous gentlemen, it is my esteemed privilege and great pleasure to express to you our sincere gratification at meeting you, and to bid you a hearty welcome to this healthful resort. On reaching this place you have accomplished what was deemed visionary among the projects of Ponce de Leon, and proved disastrous to the enterprise of De Soto; you have found the "fountain of youth" and health, and not only the fountain, but Youth and Beauty themselves, as you can testify from the realization of your own success. Everybody who comes here "vapors" more or less, gentlemen; but trust me that, not even in bidding you a welcome, shall I forget to "simmer down" in good time. We extend to you a warm welcome, and might give you one even warmer, should it be pleasant to you. We can boil you down if you will permit us; but should you submit to being boiled by us, you may do so without being afraid that we shall think of "skinning" you on this occasion. Come in some other character before we propose to submit you to that operation, as an additional test of our earnest appreciation of your value.

We are glad to show you our wonderful springs and to declare their good qualities. You may have been to Wildbad, Weisbaden, or Baden-Baden, but I am confident that, after you investigate, you will not find us bad at all, but superior to any of those bad places. There is possibility of only one regret that we might feel at your coming, and that is that our reception is not more worthy of you. We hold you in the very highest respect, because we know the power of the great engine which you direct if you cannot control. Your profession in England is called the Fourth Estate, and there the press is *not* free. In America we shall name it the First Estate, because the press, as yet, *is* free in America—in America,

"Where freedom broadens slowly down  
From precedent to precedent."

And you as members of the First Estate, permit me to say, those of you who are the editors of the daily morning press, must be those to whom Emerson alludes when he refers to "the brave who work while others sleep."



We desire that you should like us and find in our State and community that which you can commend when you return to your Titan labors, well knowing, if you shall give us a place in your good favors, that by means of the influence you exert, you can secure for us all that we could desire.

We desire you to help us with your powers. Help us to make not only our great spas known, but help us to make the wants of the people known.

Many of you gentlemen may have never seen a "squatter." Look around you in this brilliant ball-room. Nearly all whom you behold, besides yourselves, are squatters. We squatted here at various periods, dating back for forty years, most of us driven by physical pain and deadly disease to seek relief in the influences of these wonderful baths. The others came here to minister to our necessities while we bathed. To have debarred us, fenced us out with bayonets, would have been not only un-American, but would have been shocking to humanity. We have confidence that our government will not be less merciful to us than relenting nature and these genial springs. It will not drive us from the homes we have built, in which many have reared their families, to give them to traffickers in other labors who lie in wait to despoil us, that they may take toll of the sufferings of millions that are to come after us. Advocate for us homestead grants, in due proportion, in conformity with the general laws of this government of the people; and when we obtain them, we will welcome you again, with a welcome that will do credit to proprietors, and not as trembling tenants-at-will of a power that might be directed unconsciously by the influence of combinations latterly denominated "rings." But *pleasure before business* is our motto to-night. Even as a general rule, we would postpone a week of business neuralgia or business paralysis for one night of dancing and conviviality. In advance for your advertisement we will partly pay you with divertisement. And you see the proof is waiting for you. The ladies are impatient for you to take the proof *here*, while there is "higher proof" waiting for you *down stairs*. Beware of centipedes and tarantulas in your boots.

To Col. J. M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner of the Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad, and Col. T. B. Mills of the Little Rock *Spirit of Arkansas*, I return thanks on behalf of our citizens for this visit. To their energy and spirit of enterprise it is wholly due.

I shall not punish you any longer, but leave you to enjoy yourselves now according to your bents, and in that way the people of Hot Springs trust to make you welcome and your stay with them pleasant at least. Again I extend to you on the part of our citizens a most cordial welcome.

The address was received with applause throughout. At the conclusion of Col. Harrell's address, Mr. H. H. Robinson, of the Fort Wayne (Ind.) *Republican*, ascended the platform and stated that it was the wish of the excursionists that the address they had heard should be responded to by Gen. A. H. Pierce, late of Chicago. Gen. Pierce was invited to the platform by the Chairman, and made the following eloquent and happy response, which was received with great applause :

*Mr. Chairman and Ladies and Gentlemen of Hot Springs:*—I regret that a too partial appreciation of your humble speaker prevented the selection of some one more eminently qualified to reply to the eloquent address of your orator of welcome. Permit me, on behalf of your guests from the great Northwest, to return our most sincere thanks for the generous and hearty welcome extended. Your hospitality is as boundless as your domain, and seems as free as your gushing fountains. You, ladies and gentlemen, have led our hearts captive and disarmed criticism. Your romantic scenery, your genial clime, your rich productions of earth's treasures have won our praises; but your kind and loving hospitalities have thrilled us, and amid the wealth of your generous attentions we find our words are dumb to adequately express our appreciation.

Our progress through the State has been a grand triumphal ovation, not as conquerors, but as those who have come to lift a veil and let the glorious light of truth shine abroad. Your citizens have seemed to magnify our characters. We are here, my friends, to do Arkansas justice. [Applause.] We have come to grasp you by the hand, to look in each other's faces, to sit by your hearthstones, and see if we cannot read the great truth that we are brothers, citizens of one great nation, having one common flag, and sharing the brightness of one glorious destiny. [Applause.] We have been greeted with warmth everywhere since entering your State. Last night, at your sister city, Little Rock, the tables "groaned under the weight of the feast," and viands rich and rare were spread. But I looked in vain for the bright galaxy of beautiful ladies who have here come to bid us welcome.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me predict that a glorious future awaits you. For many years Arkansas has been trailing her robes of "melancholy gray" throughout the land, and men have shunned her as they would an unclean thing. But now, even now, the busy shuttles of thought are flying fast, and a hundred gratified hearts and brains are spinning the golden warp and woof that shall clothe her in a richer and more royal purple than ever wrapped an Oriental king. [Applause.] The days of her mourning have ceased, and you, ladies and gentlemen, can wipe away all her remaining tears. And while, Mr. Chairman, we are thanking you, and your generous sons and beautiful daughters, let me not forget to render our meed of praise to those public-spirited gentlemen who have brought us thus happily together. I refer to Col. T. B. Mills, Hon. J. M. Loughborough, and Hon. Thomas Allen, President of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad. This mighty road, with its magnetic bands of iron, has linked you with the great Northwest—has opened the shadows of your forests to the tread of the immigrant, and homes are springing where solitude reigned. To Cols. Mills and Loughborough we say a thousand thanks for your watchful care over us; and let me say to you, friends, that these are the enterprises that will develop your State. I wish you had a thousand "T. B. Mills" firms. You should aid them, and hold up their hands, even as Aaron and Hur did those of the old prophet. The lines of their enterprise extend farther than eye can reach, and they are sounding music upon chords that will vibrate down the ages.

It gives us great pleasure to greet you here in your happy homes—to visit your wonderful springs where humanity shall come from climes afar to bathe, and from whence the invalids shall go forth with a new song in their mouths—a song of joy for health restored and life prolonged. We look forward to the time when your mountain sides shall be gemmed with noble villas, and wealth shall shower its treasures here. We will try to aid you in this noble achievement, and the Northwestern Press will glow with greater fervor when our editors remember the bright smiles and warm hearts that greeted them here.

Pardon me, ladies and gentlemen, while I call to mind a little personal reminiscence of your beautiful town.

Five years ago I had the pleasure of visiting your beautiful city as the guest of one of Arkansas' honored citizens, and through the courtesy of the audience then gathered, I made a short address to your people. To-day I return to see the prophecy, then made, fulfilled. I looked, and when the golden beams of morn came o'er the eastern hills, saw the heavy shroud of mist and vapor rise slowly up the mountain sides, hover for a while around their summits, and then vanish in the blue ether. It seemed a half-apocalyptic vision of the future of this State. Dark clouds of doubt, uncertainty and wrong enshrouded the State as with a mantle, and walled her in a living tomb. The muttering thunders of turbulent elements were heard, and the wise and thoughtful looked with dismay for the denouement. It came. A golden sunlight of peace and reform has dispelled the clouds of wrong, until the atmosphere glows with a purity hitherto unknown. The shackles of prejudice, bigotry and sectional hate have been rent asunder, and the day of your redemption draweth nigh. Even now the stone has been rolled away from the sepulcher where you have so long lain, and a voice as potent as that which rang through Gallilee is calling us to "come forth." It is the voice of progress. The halos of enlightenment are beginning to flood this land. Men long unused to light have caught its brightness, and a new song is in their mouths. Let an acclaim of joy ring out, and let a great bonfire be made of the hates, feuds, animosities and strifes born of a fratricidal war. This day is the beginning of a new era. A hundred busy hands are ready to do you justice, and a hundred generous hearts and appreciative intellects are here to write the record for the future.

Permit me, as one who has for a number of years held citizenship in your State, to speak for a moment, not as a visitor, but as one of you who knows the needs of the State. You need a new element infused into your population—an element that can step outside the ruts of old-time associations. You want those who, bringing their household goods and gods with them, uniting their sturdy manhood with yours, take hold and utilize the riches we see springing spontaneously all around us. Arkansas should no longer pay tribute to Indiana for oak and hickory, to Connecticut for washtubs, wooden pails and whipstocks.

While we love the gentle "thee" and "thy" of the Shakers, we think green corn and tomatoes would taste just as well if canned in the valley of the Ouachita. Cincinnati hams and St. Louis beef are good, yet you want those to come who

can demonstrate the fact that just as good can be raised at home. We want those who can impress the great truth upon our minds that it is not good policy to send your cotton to Lowell to have it spun, wove, stamped and dyed, and, after paying fifty commissions and profits, returned to you again. And who can do this great work? It must be those from the hardy States of the North, whose soil and climate, less kindly than your own, have developed a mental and physical energy that have made the East and North musical with the hum of manufactories and teeming with wealth. These are the friends you want, and we know from your generous greeting to-night that a royal welcome awaits them.

And what shall be the response to these demands? We know the answer already. We have read it in the kindling eye, the grasp of the hand, and the eloquent address of welcome just uttered. They tell us you will accomplish these results by a liberality as broad as your domain and as free as your sunlight; by making the name of Arkansas respected and honored at home and abroad; by making her fertile valleys and mineral hills the synonyms of peace, protection and prosperity; by sheltering under the sacred ægis of law every son and daughter who seeks a residence here. Let the iron-belted couriers bear it away, let the winds chant it, and let the lightning tell to the world the welcome Arkansas extends to the North, East and West. Here is the land to incite to noble deeds; here is the land for the reign of eloquence, and we pledge you the aid of the Press of the Northwest to make it Liberty's home, Freedom's altar, Humanity's shrine, Learning's retreat, the olive branch of peace, the ark of safety. We bask in the blaze of a new dispensation. The institution of slavery and unpaid toil went out amid the thunder of artillery and the flames of war, but from their ruins arose a new nation—a land of free labor, free thought and free men. Free labor has mastered the terrors of the ocean, leveled the forests of a new world, and reared in their stead a community of States and nations. Free men have thundered at the gates of old dynasties and wrested a *magna charta* from feudal bonds. They have vanquished tyranny on a hundred battle-fields, and made republicanism a living reality.

Free thought, what has it *not* done? It has dotted the land with its schools and its churches. It has reared its scientific altars and shrines in every land under the sun. It has tunneled mountains of granite, spanned the roaring torrent, harnessed a thousand iron steeds to as many freighted cars, and sent them flying from town to town and from nation to nation. It has reached forth its hand, and the surcharged clouds have yielded up their hidden forces, and lightning has become the errand-boy of humanity. It was through its power that—

“ The lines have been dropped, the cables are laid,  
That anchor the East to the West;  
Old Time has been vanquished, old Ocean dismayed,  
And the lightning been cradled to rest.  
Far down 'neath the billows her wings have been furled,  
Where the mermaid sings in the sea,  
And whispers ‘ the lightnings give peace to the world,  
By linking the homes of the free.’ ”

## REMARKS OF W. H. FISHER.

*Citizens of Hot Springs*.:—Although not in the habit of speech-making, I cannot forego this opportunity of making a few remarks in reference to the many interesting facts that have come under my observation during this pleasant trip into your State.

From the newspapers and other sources of information which make it a point to publish only such items from the border States as are indicative of lawlessness, the people of the State of Ohio, as well as those of other States, have very naturally been given to understand that a condition of things have existed, of such a nature as to make Arkansas a very undesirable country for respectable people to live in. To say that I have been most agreeably disappointed in this respect but feebly expresses it. Nowhere in my extensive travels through twenty-six States of the Union have I found people more social, cultivated, and hospitable, and apparently more prosperous, than since I entered the borders of your State.

Another fact which surprised me equally as great, is the beautiful and fertile country. Such fine-looking crops of every description, and inexhaustible supplies of timber and minerals, very few States can boast of and none can excel.

If one-half the effort was made to put before the public the many superior advantages the State of Arkansas possesses, that is made to herald abroad the crimes perpetrated within her borders, settlers would be swarming into the State by thousands, and in my estimation it is to be only a matter of very little time when she will be known in her true aspect, and the result will be a tide of emigration for her borders second to that of no State in the Union.

I must not let this occasion pass without a feeble effort to express the feelings of the members of the excursion for the hospitable and generous manner in which you have received and entertained us on this occasion. Trusting that we may in some way have an opportunity at some future time to reciprocate, I close my remarks.

After which Mr. Robinson, of Indiana, offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That the representatives of the Press of the great Northwest here unite with the citizens of Arkansas in tendering our heartiest thanks to the Hon. Thomas Allen, President, to the Hon. James M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner, to Col. A. W. Soper, Superintendent, and to the other officers of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, as well as to Messrs. T. B. Mills & Co., Land Agents of Little Rock, for the liberal and intelligent spirit of enterprise that inaugurated and conducted the excursion by which so many representative men of the Northwestern Press have been enabled to meet the citizens of Arkansas upon their own soil.

*Resolved*, That the meeting thus brought about has proven to all concerned that there are no more "bloody chasms" to close, no more "hatchets to bury," but that we are all citizens of a common country, upon the one hand, proud of the progress of our sister States, and upon the other, anxious that Arkansas may speedily achieve the wealth and position due her national advantages.

Col. Loughborough, who was on the stand, in a practical but happy manner, which was frequently applauded, expressed his acknowledgments. He said, in substance :

The excursion originated in consequence of the evidence which he had in the course of business, of a great want of knowledge concerning us. He received letters from otherwise intelligent persons inquiring if the Indians were still in the vicinity, how far people would have to go to hunt buffalo, etc. So that they thought they would get a number of the leading editors of the Northwest, and let them see for themselves, that they might communicate to the people, through the press, what they might observe themselves of the vast resources of the State. After getting them into the State, he concluded to bring them to Hot Springs and scald them a little for not having their readers informed, and the next time to skin them here if they did not contribute to more enlightenment on the subject of Arkansas. He said this undertaking of himself and Col. Mills was under the sanction and direction of Col. Thomas Allen, who was absent, etc. He thanked the citizens of Hot Springs for the hospitality and courtesy shown, and that the visit to Hot Springs had delighted the excursionists and encouraged all.

At the conclusion of the speech of Col. Loughborough, Mr. C. Aug. Haviland, of Chicago, offered the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the representatives of the press be hereby extended to the citizens of Hot Springs for their cordial greeting and generous hospitality, and for their many acts of kindness we shall ever hold them in grateful remembrance.

Which was adopted with applause.

The ceremonies of the welcome here concluded. The musicians took the platform. To the lively strains of music the Arlington resounded. Many of the excursionists joined in the dancing, while others betook themselves to the wine room, where the supply of wines and cigars was exhaustless. Day dawned before the sounds of revelry ceased. About 8 o'clock Friday morning the coaches drove up and bore "our guests" away, rested, and we hope gratified by their visit.

The thirteenth and last toast was—

#### "OUR FOREIGN BORN CITIZENS.

"Here they have all the privileges accorded to any one and a hearty welcome."

Responses by Mr. Albert Cohen, of Little Rock, and J. F. Codd, Esq., of the *Land Owner*, Chicago, Illinois.

#### RESPONSE BY ALBERT COHEN.

*Mr. President and Gentlemen* :—I had little expected to be called upon to make any response on this pleasant occasion, and in the humble capacity which I hold. I was on the verge of leaving, and intended to do so as soon as the able response of Mr. Ware of Missouri was ended. I was in a retired part of the hall when my name was called, and although somewhat frightened, since gentlemen of such ability and humor have spoken, knowing that I am among those

men who with keen perception criticise, yet I must respond to the toast just proposed. Though a German by birth, yet I might say I was born over again in Arkansas, since I came here very young. I can say that my experience has been that every foreigner, every man with a good countenance and willing hands, is welcome here as if to the manor born. Yes, gentlemen, I beseech you earnestly, those of you who edit English newspapers, to devote among your agricultural columns a small space to Germans; tell my countrymen that Arkansas is the State for them; that they will be received with open arms by all of us; that they are not emigrating to a country where lawlessness reigns supreme, but to a country where the laws are obeyed. Do this, and the blessings of the present and future generations will be upon you. Gentlemen and Mr. President, I thank you for your kind indulgence.

The last toast of the evening was "Our foreign friends present." After a few well-placed and pleasant remarks by the chairman, George F. Codd, the junior partner of the firm of J. M. Wing & Co., editors and proprietors of the *Land Owner* of Chicago, Ill., was loudly called on to respond. - It was too far advanced towards morning for any lengthened speech from Mr. Codd; he was therefore compelled to confine himself to mere facts, though it was evident that those in his immediate vicinity anticipated much pleasure in his response.

RESPONSE BY G. F. CODD.

In rising to respond he said: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Northwestern Press, and brother laborers in the field of literature, it is with no small degree of justifiable pride and pleasure I rise to the call made upon me, not for the purpose of idle phraseology or the mere pleasure of pastime, but to try and give you a brief history of my personal experience in distant lands, of my knowledge and inspection of agricultural products, cereal and grain crops, fruit and grapes, ore and coal mines, not only in dear old Ireland, my native country, but in England and the north part of Swedish Norway.

When I cast my eyes over this brilliant assemblage, composed of the leading men of the great Northwestern Press—men of great learning in arts and sciences, men who have been and are engaged in the field of literature—men, in a word, who are the teachers of the public and the instructors of this great and glorious nation, under whose banner I now seek an emigrant's protection; when I look back to a few short years of my past life and glance at the splendor which meets my eyes in this banquet hall, when I think of the expectations that now rest upon these humble lips, 'tis enough indeed to raise in an humbler breast than mine

"High thoughts, bright dreams, the hope of fame,  
The ambition in America to win a name."

[Applause.]

Gentlemen, it is a matter of regret to me that my senior partner, Mr. J. M. Wing, the founder of the *Land Owner*, is not present, for his great practical experience as a journalist, his intimate acquaintance with you all, his extensive

knowledge of almost every portion of this and other States in the Union, his long and well-known experience in all matters connected with land and real estate, so fit him for the position I am now feebly endeavoring to discharge; but most pressing and urgent duties compelled him to stop at his office and send me forth on this grand and illustrious exploring editorial excursion at the cordial invitation given us by Col. Loughborough and the estimable projectors of this great expedition over the glorious golden and cotton fields and through the grand forests of Arkansas. [Applause.] But, gentlemen, I must not shrink from my responsibility though I regret it, and as all of you may not have passed over the same fields in a distant foreign land, any items connected with agricultural productions may be of interest to you on this occasion. [Hear, hear.] I have frequently examined the specimens of fruits of nearly endless variety; I have seen in the agricultural museum of the Royal Dublin Society all the samples sent there by the best Irish farmers and growers; I have witnessed the selected samples as prizes for the best productions exhibited in grapes, corn, wheat and potatoes, in endless names and various qualities; I have traveled through the silver, copper and lead mines of the county Wicklow; I have penetrated into the bowels of the mines of the Utrecht Mountains of Swedish Norway; and I say it, gentlemen, on the honor of a man who would not by a false statement dishonor Ireland, his much-loved country, that in all my past career I never witnessed such specimens as I have seen to-day in Little Rock, the products of the golden lands of Arkansas. [Great applause.]

Gentlemen, I did not intend to dwell at this length on your patience, but my friends in the vicinity of the chair have got a false idea of my power as a speaker, but let me tell you they are awfully mistaken if they labor under such a fancy, and I trust you will not visit on them your just anger for calling on me to address you [No, no, go on.] 'Tis true, gentlemen, every country will not grow or produce the same description of crops, and produce the same stock, butter and milk, but the soft sweet pastures of the lands of Erin, I believe the entire world will admit, have no equal on earth, and this is proved by the luscious flavor of our beef, mutton, butter and milk, but American pork beats all nations of the earth, and her packers may justly be proud of it.

I fear I must confine myself here and postpone any further remarks to a future meeting. [Cries of recitation resounded from Mr. Codd's quarters and no excuse would be accepted.]

Mr. Codd then delivered one of the most splendid pieces of oratory we ever had the pleasure of listening to, and though late was the hour, all seemed pleased and gratified, and at its conclusion a round of applause met him when he resumed his seat.

At the close of the banquet, Col. Loughborough announced that Col. E. N. Hill would pronounce the benediction.<sup>s</sup> He said:

*Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:*—At this late hour I do not propose to detain you long; what I might say could hardly add anything to what has been already said so well by other and abler men; but I cannot refrain from stating some things which I know from long and patient study, and you need not fear that I will



at present "choke you with statistics," as the foreign gentleman from New Jersey (Gen. Pomeroy) warned you I might do. The time is not propitious for that style of talk. What I desire to say is this: I have carefully examined into the agricultural and mineral resources of Arkansas, and have compared them with those of other States with this result, and you can verify my statement. I make it boldly—*no other State in this Union, no other country on the globe produces as many valuable agricultural products as does Arkansas.* Different States may excel in one or two things, but where you find this the case, you will find that State lacking many things that grow here. So with our minerals; we have coal and iron as good as that of Pennsylvania; silver ore as rich as that of Colorado or Nevada; lead equal to Illinois or Missouri, and many other valuable minerals found in none of those States. Then the timber that grows upon our soil is worth more than the whole State is now assessed for. But to pass to other things, from the inanimate to the animate. It has been charged that the people of this State are lawless; that violence reigned supreme, and that life and property were not protected by law, more particularly the lives of Northern men, such as the guests of this occasion. There was a time in Arkansas when, to a limited extent, this charge was true, but that time is past, never to return; *our* political troubles are settled, never more to be revived. None of us propose to act the part of the hyena and dig into the grave of the past and scatter the ashes over the present. We shall let the dead past go, and look to a better future, and we ask your aid in assisting to bring about that future. Arkansas needs men—men of brains—men of money—men of muscle, more particularly the latter; if we can get these, this will soon be one of the richest and loveliest States the sun shines upon. In the countries where you live there is a superabundance of these men—men who have rescued a frozen wilderness from barrenness. Go home when you have seen this State as we shall show it to you, and tell them of its soil, its climate, its people, and some of them—enough to make us rich and great as a State, without impoverishing you—will come here. They will meet as hearty a welcome as you have received.

## CHAPTER IV.

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### ARKADELPHIA.



LEAVING Hot Springs at eight o'clock, Friday morning, it was two in the afternoon before the excursionists arrived at Malvern, where their train was in waiting to carry them southward. At four o'clock they disembarked at Arkadelphia, and we will let the *Southern Standard* tell the story of their stay. It says: Capt. W. T. Crouch, the Marshal of the day, announced to the excursionists, as soon as they disembarked, that an excellent barbecue awaited them up town. This announcement was received with enthusiastic applause by them, as they had not broken fast since early morning. Arrived at the table, they found a most sumptuous feast of barbecued meat with proper accompaniments, and from the spirit with which they attacked them, the Southern sun and breezes had not impaired their appetites. After satisfying their appetites, it was announced by Col. Loughborough that they would repair back to the train, and after a short run down the road to see a field or two of cotton, they would return to this city, when the formal reception would take place. A run of four miles brought them to the plantation of Mr. Albert Strong, where the train halted, and such of the party as felt disposed got off the train and went into the cotton field. It was a novel sight to many of them, it being the first time that they had ever been inside of a cotton field or witnessed the process of picking. They appeared to be delighted with the scene, and some of them expressed themselves in the language of the Queen of Sheba when she beheld the magnificence of Solomon's kingdom, "The half has not been told." Leaving a portion of the excursionists at this field to examine it further, the train proceeded some ten miles farther down the road, but it was too dark to see anything of the country. Returning, those left behind were taken on board, and about 7.30 o'clock the train arrived at the depot, the party disembarked and proceeded to the Reames House, where speeches of welcome were made by J. W. Gaulding, of the *Standard*, and Col. Duane Thompson, who spoke as follows:

*Gentlemen of the Press:*—On behalf of the citizens of Clark County, I welcome you to Arkadelphia.

In my boyhood days I recollect to have read a poem written by Albert W. Pike, of Arkansas, which commenced, "From the Rio Grande's waters to the icy lakes of Maine," and I remember that it was written about the battle of Buena Vista, or some of those conflicts in Mexico, wherein the sons of the North and those of the South were engaged fighting shoulder to shoulder the battles of a United Republic; and, gentlemen, with those memories in my mind, and the fact appearing as it does here to-night, that we are still members of a common country, I welcome you not only as representatives of the press of this country, but as members of "that sisterhood of commonwealths that dot this continent across from the rock-bound coast of New England to the Golden Gates of the Pacific," and "from the Rio Grande's waters to the icy lakes of Maine," knowing that you gentlemen from the North are observing carefully, and will look into the resources of Arkansas, investigate carefully, and give a fair and correct report thereof to the people of the sections that you represent; that you will also observe whether we have a lawless population or not.

Somewhere I have seen it written that "Whoso bloweth not his own trump, the same shall not be blowed;" but as far as I am concerned, representing this people here to-night, I shall enter into no details in regard to this country further than I have done, trusting to your own careful observation to judge for yourselves whether or not we have a State replete in everything that should induce persons in search of homes to turn their steps towards Arkansas. Gentlemen, in conclusion I again extend to you a sincere and hearty welcome.

After which the following sentiments were read by Hon. H. B. Stuart, and responded to in the most eloquent and feeling manner by the gentlemen named below:

#### "OUR GUESTS.

"Honorable representatives of the art preservative of all arts, from the great Northwest. We recognize the powers they wield; we show them our land; offer them a cordial welcome, and ask them, when they speak to their thousands of readers, to tell them that our hearts are warmer than our suns, and their genial heat shall ripen a friendship so warm to those from the Northwest who come among us, that it shall bear the fruits of 'the more perfect union' our fathers sought."

Responded to by Col. Sidney Thomas, of Chicago.

[Col. Thomas not having sent us his manuscript, we cannot publish his remarks.]

The second toast was—

#### "THE GREAT NORTHWEST.

"May the prosperous and hardy sons of toil who have caused 'the plains and forest of that region to bloom as the gardens of the gods,' and ripen the fruits that feed a world, turn their strong arms and steady march to Arkansas, where they will find a soil made richer by nature than was theirs by labor, a people glad to welcome them, and fortune that will spring from the gladdened earth in response to their steps,"

This toast was eloquently responded to by Mr. H. H. Robinson, of Fort Wayne, Indiana. He said:

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:*—I am sensible of the responsibility which a proper response to the toast imposes. To speak for the journals of the great Northwest, and, in a measure, to commit their representatives on this excursion to a favorable report of the social, political and material condition of the State of Arkansas, is an office of serious importance. But, my fellow-countrymen, the three days' experience we of the press have had within your borders emboldens me to attempt it. I need not descant upon the wonderful growth and influence of the section of the Republic which has such an incomparable channel of commerce as our joint Mississippi. I need not enlarge upon the relations which must ever exist between the great commonwealth of the North and Southwest here represented. They are sisters of the great American family, dissimilar in features, it may be, but happily not less fair and loyal. Their reconciliation has become complete, and their co-operation promises to make our national centenary illustrious. It is especially gratifying on this occasion to recall the prompt, earnest and unequalled services for peace and concord, which were rendered, even to martyrdom, by America's great editor, Horace Greeley. It is his example which the entire press of the land, with few exceptions, are following to-day; and I am glad to assure you, fellow-countrymen of Arkansas, that we come to see you with the most cordial aims. Everywhere during our trip have we found fraternal greeting. We have encountered nothing that forbids a hearty commendation. The roughest part of our tour was but a pleasant jolt; and if we got into "hot water" it was because we eagerly sought the springs of health. And what purification and delight they afforded! To our view your sky has been not only "darkly, deeply, beautifully blue," but charmingly serene—fit token of your social and political life. The only clouds in your aerial space have been so soft and fleecy as to suggest the beauty and power of *cotton*. We have seen that great staple gathered this afternoon, and beside it such a vast growth of corn as to suggest that, in this county of Clark, you have but "to tickle the soil with the hoe to make it laugh with a harvest." From such an experience as I have thus outlived, ladies and gentlemen of Arkadelphia, you may infer how readily the representatives of the Press will commend the general state of things in Arkansas, and urge sturdy hands and brisk capital to share your great possibilities. I thank you for the consideration you have given me.

The third toast was—

"COL. J. M. LOUGHBOROUGH,

Land Commissioner of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad, and Messrs. T. B. Mills & Co., of Little Rock, the gentlemen to whose enterprise we owe the pleasure of meeting to-day's excursionists. May they meet with a reward commensurate to the energy and enterprise they have displayed, and may their efforts to induce immigration to our beloved State be crowned with success."

It was ably responded to by Col. E. N. Hill, of Little Rock, who represented the *Chicago Inter-Ocean*. He said:

*Ladies and Gentlemen and Fellow-citizens*:—It was well enough for my respected friend, Judge Stewart, to introduce the speakers who have preceded me, but to an audience of Arkansians I need no introduction, and the excursionists of this party have become tolerably well acquainted with the sound of my voice, as I came from St. Louis with them. I have been requested to respond to a resolution complimentary to Messrs. Loughborough and Mills, the gentlemen who organized and have carried out so successfully this excursion. The well-known modesty of both these gentlemen rendered it necessary that some one should speak for them, and with due regard to the eternal fitness of things, I was selected, because I was known to be the most modest man in the State. What shall I say? That they have well deserved the compliment tendered, we all know. When we look beyond the present and endeavor to glance into the future, can we not see that they deserve more? It would seem that an almost impenetrable wall had been built around Arkansas to prevent people from other States entering into one of the fairest domains God ever made for His people, or that a banner like that which the Templars of old carried—black and terrible upon one side, to dismay their enemies—had been hoisted over Arkansas, and that the black side had been displayed. In fact, there has been such a wall and such a banner. It was a wall of prejudices and a banner of falsehood, and they have kept us isolated, poor and unknown. The gentlemen whom you have complimented have done much to break down that wall and tear down that banner. They have for months been laboring to show the people of the Northwest that this State—poor, contemned, despised, ridiculed, maligned and hated Arkansas—was the place for them to come when seeking homes. They have told of its rich soil, its valuable timber, its immense mineral deposits, its genial climate and law-observing people, and have asked them to come amongst us and see these things for themselves, and now they have brought into your midst a hundred representatives of the press, who will go to their homes and report, as did the Queen of Sheba when, attracted by the tales of his wealth, she visited the magnificent Solomon, “that the half has not been told them.” Should this report which I know that these gentlemen will make, attract the tide of emigration this way, and build up our State, then the people of the State, both the old and the new settlers, will owe to Messrs. Mills and Loughborough a lasting debt of gratitude.

To you gentlemen who are visiting Arkansas I would say, tell the story of what you have seen and heard, each in his own way. You can safely say you have seen a rich country, cheap lands, a good climate, and a hospitable people; that any one who comes here to live will meet with a hearty welcome and will not be asked in what army he served, or what are his politics. We have had one more war than the balance of the United States, and yet you see Brooks and Baxter men mingling together here with perfect friendliness, as you have seen to-night a Federal and a Confederate soldier, each standing where I do, to give

you a hearty welcome to Arkadelphia. States are not mere pieces of land surrounded by certain boundaries. It is the people, the men who reside within these boundaries, that make the State. Tell your people who may desire to change their homes, to come here and help us to make the State. We need their help as much as they need our rich and cheap lands. Let them come and unite with us in making of Arkansas, what she was intended to be by nature, one of the principal States of this great American Union; one of the brightest stars that shines in its flag.

The fourth toast was—

#### “THE NATION.

“May the bonds of love and friendship which unite it grow firmer as years advance, and the stars upon its flag increase in number and brilliancy, until their radiance shall overshadow a continent, and untold millions of freemen shall rest in safety under its broad folds, until in heart, hand and interest, free as the air that kisses the mountain tops, and rich in all that makes a nation great—brave and honest men, and fair and virtuous women.”

This toast was eloquently responded to by Gen. A. W. Bishop, of Little Rock, as follows:

*Mr. President and Gentlemen:*—The summons came to me with but little warning to respond to this toast and sentiment; but we are essaying now in Arkansas to move forward with no uncertain step, so I plunge at once into what I may have to say in response to your generous call. The Nation is toasted. God guard the great fact that once again we have a NATION. The sections are reuniting, “twin giants” that watch over “the sea and land,” and, as of old, when George the Third sought to put his heavy hand upon the resources of the country, the people of the North and South are fraternizing as they have not done for the past ten years, and sensible men everywhere wish to bury in the completest oblivion the jarring views and bitter hate that characterized our conduct toward each other a decade ago.

And, fellow-citizens, I hail it as an encouraging sign of the times, and especially so above and beyond all others, that we have with us here to-night, “down in Dixie,” so large and influential a representation of the Press of the great West; confident, I believe, in the good-will to them of this people, their prejudices scattered to the winds, all apprehension of personal danger dissipated, and the only conquering done that brought about by the cordiality of the reception which our citizens at Little Rock, Hot Springs, and here, have only been too happy to have had the opportunity of giving. We must forget this war that we have had, and we must show our forgetfulness by our acts. It is nonsense to be otherwise now than brethren. When we “let sleep the spark that fired the match-lock,” in spirit and in action, we should have become friends again, and, although such a wish did not at once father the fact, the skies are brightening now, and the contests that agitate our American communities catch their inspiration from the clashing elements of peace alone. The bench, the bar and the

pulpit are hacking away, as in the olden time, upon tenet and doctrine. The scarred but surviving participants in a hundred battles are smarting now under the wounds that the clergy inflict; and

“Heroes shall fall who strode unharmed away  
From the red heaps of many a doubtful day;  
Hacked in their sermons, riddled in their prayers,  
The broadcloth slashing what the broadsword spares.”

And so is it throughout civil life. The rivalries of peace give the time and the hour their zest, and what just now is more significant than all else, the fountains of political power and influence are breaking up. The old catch-words have lost their grip, and money, which, in spite of the theories of political economists, will regulate the value of all other commodities and is itself regulated by none, will dictate the platforms of the next Presidential campaign.

Gentlemen of the Press of the West, you come here at the beginning of a transition period. We have had our troubles in Arkansas and more than our share of trouble. A year and a half ago we had a little war of our own, but it is all over with now, and we feel that we can say to you, with confidence and encouragement, send here your farmers and mechanics, your day laborers and professional men. We have the climate and the soil, the forests and the rivers, and we say to you, as the undoubted truth, that there is only needed the influence of capital and industry, in harmonious action, to make this much-abused and long-suffering State one of the brightest stars in the national galaxy.

The fifth toast was—

“THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

“May its growth be onward and upward.”

This was well responded to by Gen. H. W. McMillan, of Arkadelphia.

Judge H. B. Stewart, of Arkadelphia, then said:

*Gentlemen of the Grand Editorial Excursion party and my home friends:—*It is now growing late at night, and I am suffering from severe headache, and have been during the greater part of the evening, and for this, as well as other good reasons, I would have been glad that my home friends had excused me from being called as one of the speakers to-night. Our citizens met immediately after notice that our distinguished guests intended doing us the honor to visit us, and provided for their reception as best we could under the short notice; and two of our distinguished citizens who have just addressed you were appointed as the speakers to represent our people, to welcome the distinguished strangers to our midst, and to share our hospitality during their brief sojourn with us. Such being the fact, and having another duty assigned me in the programme of reception, I had no expectation of making any remarks to-night, and what I may say will necessarily be disconnected, *impromptu*, and without a moment's previous consideration or reflection.

In the speeches that you have listened to to-night, and that have preceded me, you have been told of our soil, our climate, our crops, our hidden and undeveloped mineral wealth and of our people, and it will not be necessary for me to say much on any of these points. It is not to be expected that you gentlemen of the press, in passing so rapidly over our State, can see our lands, crops and people so as to form a complete and entirely satisfactory estimate of the worth and character of either. You have, however, pursued the proper course. You have come among us and seen for yourselves, and I am proud to meet you and honor you for the visit; and I believe, as all you gentlemen have stated in your speeches, to which we have listened with so much pleasure, that you will do us full justice when you return to your homes; and that is all we ask, and all that we could expect.

The present crop of Arkansas, I admit, with favorable weather for gathering, will be more than an average yield under our system of cultivation, but perhaps not an average crop with the superior and improved cultivation that has been so wisely adopted and practiced in the States from which you come. But as it is, we cannot only feed you and all who come among us, but we can also clothe you from our cotton fields, and give you some very good wool, also, to "mix" with it. You need have no apprehensions of "freezing out" here, even were it twice as cold as it is.

I was delighted with a remark made by one of the eloquent speakers of the excursion party, who stated in his speech that the press of the United States was in favor of a reconciliation, of the restoration of good feeling between the people of the North and South. This, in my humble opinion, is the true sentiment, the true feeling that should control, not only the press, but every citizen of the United States. And if the press of the United States, or a large majority of its members, desire reconciliation, it will be so. The press is omnipotent, in a great measure, in the United States, as it is in all governments where the will of the people is sovereign. And just here I wish to say in behalf of Arkansas and of our new government, that the great mass of our people are as peaceable, as law-abiding as the people of any of the States you have the honor to represent. Their fundamental law, the new Constitution, is of their "own handiwork," made by their chosen representatives, and by them indorsed by an unprecedented majority at the ballot-box. Our State government is a government of the people and for the people, and secures to all life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, without regard to "race, color or previous condition," and the great mass of our people are determined to obey the law, maintain peace, good order and good government themselves, and are further fully determined that all others shall do the same. And I speak by authority when I say I care not from what land or clime you may come, if you come among us to be one of us, and to make a good citizen, you will not only be protected and secure in life and property, in whatever pursuits you may see proper to engage, but our people will ever be found willing to extend to you a generous hospitality and a helping hand.

And why should we not be friends? Why not be reconciled with each other, and forget the lamented past differences, its bitter trouble? Why not bury all



its mournful sadness in a common oblivion? The cause that once separated us is gone, and forever gone; gone to know no resurrection in the great future of this government. Why not all, North, South, East and West, love a common country, and strive to promote each other's prosperity, and the prosperity of each and every section of this great country? Our domain is almost boundless, with a soil and climate that has the capacity to supply every necessary of life, with all the luxuries, not only to its own population, but the half of Europe besides. Love our whole country, forget the past, and look to the future.

Look at England, in her little insular position, with her eleven millions or thereabouts of inhabitants, and yet she boasts that the sun never goes down upon her dominions. And as small as the territory is that composes the kingdom of Great Britain, she at one time, single-handed and alone, bid defiance to the combined powers of nearly all Europe. She justly ranks among the first of the great powers of the earth. And why so? Because her people are intelligent and united, love their government and sustain her laws. France, with a territory perhaps not more than three times larger than Arkansas, supports in ease, and in many instances with all the elegant and costly luxuries, a population of over forty millions, and is also justly classed among the great powers of the earth. The leading cause of this greatness is that her people love France, and will defend her honor with their lives, as has often been tested upon hundreds of blood-stained and gory battle-fields. Love our whole country! Yes; from Maine to California. Love our icy lakes, our snow-capped mountains; love our great Northwest, down to the sunny South and the seething waters of the Gulf of Mexico; and forget, yes, yes, forget, our late unnatural and unhappy struggle; and each of us remember and love the graves of the brave and gallant heroic soldiers of the Federal and Confederate dead. Remember, many of them sleep side by side beneath the sod of mother earth, near by where they struggled and fell, now sleeping quietly in their graves awaiting the judgment day. The poet tells us that "there is grandeur in graves, and glory in gloom," and he insists that

" Out of the gloom future brightness is born,  
As after the night comes the sunlight of morn."

This is a hopeful view of a sad picture, and my hope is that our whole people, when they pass among and think of the graves of the gallant dead who fell on either side in our late contest, may say and feel in truth, here is

" Love and tears for the Blue,  
And tears and love for the Gray."

And when this reconciliation takes place in a spirit of love and patriotism, and is an accomplished fact, we can have no just conception of the future greatness of our country. Why may not many of the American States support and maintain a population of twenty millions? And we may safely calculate that the time is not far distant in the history of the American nation when, instead of forty millions, we will boast of one hundred millions inhabitants. And why not, with our immense territory, and our superior advantages of government, soil, climate

and productions, may we not some day hope to rival in numbers the Chinese Empire with her three hundred millions? Should this occur, and occur it may, and with the superior intelligence of the American people to control and direct the energies, skill and power of these millions of human beings, we may, as a nation and people, hope to accomplish even more than the patriotic founders of our government expected of their posterity, or that the most sanguine and laudable ambition could desire.

With such brilliant hopes and aspirations to nerve us on to duty, patriotism and love of country, why should we not forget each other's faults and foibles, and live for each other and those to come after us, our children—looking only to the past that we may avoid its errors and trouble in the future? When we look to the bright side of our past history, and see what we have accomplished in the first hundred years of our national existence and experiment of self-government by the people, and by prophetic ken raise the veil of the future for the next one hundred years to come, and contemplate the condition of millions of happy, intelligent and patriotic human beings who will from now until then enjoy the blessings of American liberty and self-government, we ought to be united, and proudly exclaim—

“Land of the free, no tongue can tell  
The love I bear to thee.”

I have detained you much longer than I expected, and fear I have wearied your patience. With the hope to see you again often in our midst, and that many of you and the people of your States will migrate within and form a part and parcel of our beloved and adopted Arkansas, I bid you all good-night.

The next speaker was Capt. James A. Rudd, the representative of the *St. Louis Times*, who said:

It scarcely becomes me to speak on this occasion, for instead of being a guest, I am more of an Arkansian because I am a Missourian. I might justly, therefore, claim that those who have come among us to partake of our hospitality, and to see for themselves what we possess in the way of water, land, timber, climate, mineral, soil, society, educational facilities, and peaceful government, should be permitted, first of all, to talk to us and tell us their experience; but, lest you imagine that I want to claim citizenship because I do not want to be sociable, I, as a Missourian—though still a double first cousin to the Arkansians—tell my experience of a visit that, when it is long over and past, will be recalled as one of the most delightful of my life.

Col. Loughborough naturally belongs to us, but if Arkansas wants him, Arkansas can have him, because Arkansas can get anything Missouri possesses in the way of true manhood or pure gold. But when Loughborough came up among us the other day and asked us all to go with him into Arkansas, I knew what was to be found in Arkansas as well as Loughborough himself did. And what was to be found? I will tell you. A hospitality that never was excelled; a welcome such as the weary traveler received—your own inimitable Sandy Faulkner, if you

please—when it was known that he could play the other part of the lost tune ; a princely greeting that was born of your hearts and sprung spontaneously from your high-bred courtesy, and a real genuine, old fashioned hand-shaking and home-bringing which you inherited from your lion-hearted ancestry, and which, amid many dark and unfortunate things, you have preserved as a priceless heirloom and kept undimmed and unspotted through it all.

No State in all the Union excels your own in all that is alluring to capital and attractive to emigration. I have known this for years, but my associates here to-night have just taken in the whole situation at a glance, and will go back to their homes, sowing broadcast and liberally seeds that will take root everywhere for the advancement of Arkansas and the prosperity of her people.

“ For Saxon, or Norman, or Dane are we,  
But all of us Danes in our tribute to thee,”  
Arkansas.

Others will come after me who have not roamed among your mountains as I have, nor camped by your streams, nor dwelt in the tents of your people, nor mingled in the councils of your children, nor received honors and rewards at the hands of your chosen ones ; and I want to hear how candidly they will bear testimony to a welcome that has been an ovation, and to a series of entertainments that have been genuine home-bringsings as well as magnificent feasts.

Thanking you sincerely for the privilege of being permitted to put on record a feeling that with me is best expressed by silence, I bid you good-night as well also as good-morning, for I turn again to the feast made gracious with true Arkansas hospitality.

Mr. Rudd was followed by W. G. Dilts, of Ironton, Missouri, who spoke as follows :

*Friends and Fellow-citizens of this the most glorious country on earth :—*We, as the representatives of the Northwestern Press, tender you our sincere thanks, both for ourselves and those whom we represent, for the kind, cordial welcome which we have received from you and other citizens of your State. It only needs that that “ touch of nature which makes the whole world kin ” be referred to, to show us, and you, that we are, indeed and in truth, all citizens of one common country ; that her interests are our interests, and her destiny our destiny.

We have come among you for no incendiary purpose, and with no hidden or secret motive, but simply to see you and know you as you are ; and if, as we suspect, you are a people whose highest aim and whose greatest ambition is, as it should be, the advancement of the cause of liberty, religion, education, and morality—in short, all that goes towards making us wiser and better, and a united people—we desire to know these things for ourselves, that we may tell them to the thousands of your Northern brethren, many of whom have long believed that the name “ Southron ” was synonymous with “ savage.” We desire to tell you also that the citizens of the great Northwest are your friends, and

the friends of your race. They are ready with you to aid in making this nation what nature intended it should be, the banner nation on the face of the earth. All we need to attain to this high position is industry, energy, and the full use of the bounteous provision made by nature and placed ready to our hand. We should also labor to suppress those disturbing elements which have rent and well nigh ruined the prosperity of many of our States. But we see in your actions and in your conversation since we have come among you, that it is time wasted to refer to your past as a warning for your future course; we see that you have anticipated all that we might say on this point; that you have cast aside all hindrances of the past, and that you are now united in trying who can best work and best agree. You have every encouragement for success; you have that happy blending of climate, that by its mild but invigorating salubrity has the best effect on animal and vegetable life; and at the same time you escape the rigors of a more northern latitude; you have in your midst all the resources which are needed to build up a great and successful State. Your forests and your prairie lands; your minerals and water privileges; your contiguity to the great Father of Waters, on whose broad bosom has been borne the traffic of a great nation for generations, and whose future usefulness may not be computed—all tend to show that of yourselves you need but time to become one of the brightest stars in our confederation of States.

With the help of labor and capital, which we feel bound to believe will soon flow in upon you, the time will not be far distant when you will realize your brightest anticipations.

Our interests are your interests, and we hope when next we visit you to find you with a teeming population, and every avenue of business so filled that there shall scarcely be standing room.

My friends, it needs no prophetic voice to say that a grand future awaits our country. From four millions less than a century ago, our population has increased to forty millions; a century hence will find in us a rival in point of numbers to many of the older nations of the East, and in prosperity we will have distanced them all. From Asia, Africa, England, Scotland, and Wales; from Germany, Austria, and Hungary; from France, Belgium, and Italy; from all points of the habitable earth, near and remote, year after year, and decade after decade, is coming the steady flow of immigration to our shores; and all those nations are rearing populations to augment the grand total of humanity in the United States. The duty of our government to these people is plain. We must provide for their protection and for their education.

We hold that the education of the people is the corner-stone on which the superstructure of government rests; and without it no nation can permanently prosper, as history will show in numberless instances.

We look forward to the day when, from the point of land that is habitable nearest the North Pole, to the shores of the great gulf; from the furthest eastern point extending into the Atlantic to the placid shores of the Pacific Ocean, the whole of this vast continent may become one great confederation of States,

without a standing army, without a great navy, and with not a custom-house throughout the whole breadth of the land; not mixing itself up with entanglements of European politics, but every man a politician, attending to the affairs of his own State and country; with an educated, upright and God-fearing people, and with freedom everywhere; then the Eutopian land would at last be found, and there would be at least some hope that man is not forsaken of heaven, and that the future of our race may be better than the past.

In view of the manner in which you have received us as visitors, we can but conclude that you mean to make your State a success. We bid you God-speed, and will lend a helping hand where and whenever we are able; and when you come North we know you will not find us lacking in hospitality and welcome.

Judge H. J. Shirk, of Peru, Indiana, being called upon, said:

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:*—I am not sure that my dear friend from Little Rock is right in his assumption of there being cotton-fields and cities on the planets, but just now I wish I were the man in the moon; having no toast to speak to, I am at a loss to know just what should be said, not being accustomed to shooting without a target. Perhaps a word as to impressions made on my mind by these four days' observations would be the best thing to speak of. While *en route* from Moark ("And *such* a name!" said a quill-driver at my side, but on being told it was two great States put together, he said *unique*) to Little Rock, I was a little disposed to go back on Arkansas, but after our magnificent reception at Walnut Ridge, Judsonia, etc., and seeing the wheat, corn and cotton being marketed at the various stations, I could but realize that it was a country of great susceptibilities, and often I asked myself the question, what will this country be when improved like Northern Indiana? Those little villages nestling now among the oaks and pines are destined to become thriving cities and towns, centers of populous, grain-growing and stock-raising communities. On receiving an invitation to join this excursion, and seeing Col. T. B. Mills' name attached to it, I made up my mind that we were to have a splendid time, for I knew by ten years' acquaintance he was a splendid man, and I knew, too, that Arkansas was full of splendid land or he would not be here in the land business. And, now gentlemen of this great State, allow me to say that it is my firm conviction that you have the elements to make of Arkansas one of the wealthiest States in the Union. Kansas and Nebraska on the north must have pine boards and oak posts or remain a wilderness. Your State has pine and oak enough to fence the "American desert." St. Louis needs coal to smelt the lead and iron that come to her for manufacture. You have the best of coal in well nigh exhaustless quantities. But laying aside these demands of your neighbors upon you, Arkansas can make for herself a mighty nation. You have no need to depend on any other State for anything but horny-handed honest men to assist in the development of your country. Do you need corn? What gigantic crops now burden your soil! You can grow corn-stalks whose tassels nod with scorn at the puny stalks grown in Illinois, where corn is *king*. Do you need wheat? Your warehouses are now filled with a surplus of wheat equal in quality to Michigan's best. Your fruits, your grapes, your vegetables, none of them inferior, while the

excellence of your waters throughout the State, and the picturesque and medicinal virtues of springs in various parts, together with a magnificent climate, give to your State advantages almost unsurpassed. And, gentlemen, he who lives to see Arkansas two decades hence, with its 'prairies and forests teeming with millions of toilers; its valleys threaded with the iron road; its cities resounding with the sound of forge and spindle; may, when looking at the national escutcheon, see fifty stars glittering there; but the Arkansian can point proudly to the one that glitters brightest and say, that is my own State! And of a galaxy of grand States, I am proud of my own Arkansas. Thank you, gentlemen, for the welcome you have given us.

The *Standard* closes its account of the visit to Arkadelphia in this wise:

"From their manner and the tone of their remarks, we are satisfied that the excursionists were highly delighted not only with our country but our people, and that they will give a favorable report of both through their columns to their millions of Northwestern readers, and that their coming amongst us will result in a better understanding and a more cordial relationship between the two great sections, and in lasting good to both. We know that the impression made upon our people by them was most favorable, for all agree that a more genial, social, gentlemanly and clever body of men they never met. For the inauguration and successful carrying out of this grand scheme the people of Arkansas are under lasting obligations to Cols. J. M. Loughborough and T. B. Mills, for it will do more toward bringing our State into general and favorable notice than any other measure that could possibly have been adopted."

At two o'clock on Saturday morning, the train arrived at the depot in Little Rock, it having been previously arranged that the company would divide on Saturday, part of it going west over the Little Rock and Fort Smith road, and the remainder east, over the Memphis and Little Rock road. After an early breakfast this arrangement was carried out, and the next chapter will contain an account of these trips.

## CHAPTER V.

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### OVER THE FORT SMITH AND MEMPHIS ROADS.



THE OFFICERS of the Memphis and Little Rock, and Little Rock and Fort Smith roads, having, through Messrs. Loughborough and Mills, tendered invitations to their guests to make a trip over these roads, and Saturday being the last day at their disposal, the party divided about equally, one-half going east, the other west. We leave the description of the trip over the Fort Smith road to the Little Rock *Evening Star* of October 4th. It says:

About forty of our editorial guests accepted an invitation from the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad Company to take a trip over that line and look at the fine scenery and enjoy the hospitalities of the western portion of the State. The train left Argenta about eight A. M., in charge of Capt. Theo. Hartman, Superintendent, and Hon. W. D. Slack, Land Commissioner for the road. Col. A. P. Curry, Dr. Wilcox, G. H. Hyde, Thos. Lafferty, and others of our citizens accompanied the excursionists. At Lewisburg a fine showing of fruit, grain and vegetables was made. Rev. Mr. Stout and others joined the train at Lewisburg.

The guests next visited the Ouita coal mine, the flouring mills and gins of Clarksville, and the Spadra coal mines, which were explored while they sang "Down in a Coal Mine." While a part were exploring these mines the rest went on to Altus, and several proceeded on the stage to Fort Smith. Returning at about six o'clock P. M., the train reached Russellville, where an elegant supper was spread through the generosity of the railroad company and Capt. Hartman. At the close of the repast, resolutions thanking the officers of the road and the citizens on its line for their courtesy and kindness were adopted.

The *Daily Gazette* of the 5th says of the trip over the Memphis road:

When the editorial excursion party divided at this place Saturday morning, part going East and part West, a considerable majority of the company accepted a train tendered them by the Memphis and Little Rock road for a ride across the prairie section of the State to Forrest City.

At Lonoke the train stopped only for a few minutes—just long enough to let our visitors meet a delegation of citizens in waiting for them at the depot, and take a short walk through the town.

At Carlisle their stay was longer; the train stopped about an hour, and Gov. Hadley made the following address of welcome:

*Gentlemen of the Press:*—In behalf of the citizens of Carlisle and vicinity, I bid you welcome to our prairie home. Circumstances forbid our tendering you the same hospitalities you have received at the capital and other cities in the State, but I assure you that your coming is greeted with as much pleasure by the tillers of the soil upon these broad prairies, as any other class of our citizens in any part of the State.

Our people are mostly engaged in agricultural pursuits, gathering wealth from the earth by growing the productions of a fertile soil in a climate unsurpassed in any country. The fine fruit, vegetables and cereals before you are specimens of the product of their labor. Our town is small, but young; the surrounding country is sparsely settled but new. Three years ago this town did not exist, and these prairies, where you see farms being opened and comfortable houses erected, was one vast expanse, where the axman and plowman had not intruded. The seasons came and went with regular precision; the luxuriant grass sprang into life each spring, to be swept away in the fall by the red-tongued fire-king of the prairie. What a change is taking place! Already quite a portion of this land is utilized, and instead of ashes as the only result of the season's growth, we have thousands of tons of hay, wheat-bins and corn-cribs full to overflowing, with many broad acres snowy-white with cotton ready for the gatherer.

Our people are well satisfied with the country, and are contented, believing that few countries, if any, possess superior advantages. You will observe our prairies have one feature rarely found in any of the prairies of the Northwestern States, and that is, they are skirted by large belts of timber, and these belts are interspersed throughout the entire prairie, almost at regular distances, upon nearly the same level as the prairie, nature having done her work nobly in preparing the farm for occupancy; and, what is also very unusual, the timber is large, tall and straight, and consists of the most valuable varieties for the farmer's use.

Gentlemen, we welcome you, not only as representatives of that conqueror more powerful than the sword, but as fellow-citizens of another portion of our common country. You have come here for the laudable purpose of learning something of our State and people, to enable you to publish the facts to the world as you see them and know them to exist. The salubrity of the climate, the productions of the soil, the rich rolling prairies and the specimens of minerals you have seen, are all self-evident facts of which you can speak from actual knowledge and observation. Of our people, I suppose you desire to learn something of their thoughts and feelings, as well as to see what their tastes and habits are. Knowing that the people of the Northern States, and especially those who contemplate making this State their future home, are anxious to learn the political status of



our people, and what kind of reception they would receive, I unhesitatingly say that this community—and I have not the least doubt but that the same is true of the entire State—are loyal to the State and National Government, and desire peace and harmony to prevail throughout the entire country. The bitterness engendered by the late war has passed away, and the commingling of the Northern and Southern people has convinced all that they are one people, with a common national interest; and should a foreign power attempt to tarnish our honor as a nation, or place a stain upon our flag, they would stand side by side in defence of that flag, as they stood on last Decoration Day paying honor to the fallen heroes of the late civil strife. How heroic, how noble, how grand, the Federal and Confederate uniting in a grand floral tribute to those who fell like brave soldiers, fighting for what they believed to be the right.

Gentlemen, our rich alluvial bottoms, fertile prairies, uplands and mountain slopes furnish as great a variety of soils, adapted to as much variety in tillage and productions, as any State or country under the sun. Quite a large portion of our State is underlaid with inexhaustible veins of coal, while iron, zinc, galena, and other valuable ores and metals, exist in great abundance. Our people well understand that fine lands, rich ores and valuable timber are worthless unless developed with labor and capital, and, without prejudice or animosity, they invite good citizens to come, not questioning their religious opinions or political affiliations and sympathies, but will extend to them the right hand of fellowship, and will give them a hearty and cheerful welcome. The present Executive of the State is a man of honor and strict integrity, as well as acknowledged ability, who has the confidence of the people as fully as any former occupant of the gubernatorial chair ever had. The people are peaceable and kindly disposed to each other and all who come among them. The laws are executed promptly and impartially, and I know of no good reason why Arkansians are not and should not be a happy and contented people.

I hope your visit to our State will prove a pleasure to you, and furnish a source of information to all the people of our great country in elucidating the truth to such an extent that all will be benefited, that we may know and understand each other as the different members of one great national brotherhood should know and understand each other, for by such intercommunication the bonds of friendship and nationality will become so firmly cemented, that should the tocsin of war sound from afar, a solid phalanx of forty millions of freemen would be heeded and respected by all the nations of the earth.

At the conclusion of Gov. Hadley's address, the visitors availed themselves of the opportunity to see the town and surrounding country. They all expressed themselves delighted with the prairies of Arkansas, and declared them as beautiful as any in the world. The people of Carlisle had hastily gathered a collection of fruits and grain raised in that vicinity, and had the same arranged for the examination of their guests. They made a good exhibition, and showed our friends from the North that our wheat and apples will compare well with the best produced in any country, while a pear weighing two pounds and four ounces was pronounced by all the finest specimen they ever saw. A new cotton-gin in

operation at Carlisle was a great curiosity to most of the party, and the extensive hay-pressing establishments in that place were also the subject of much interest.

After leaving Carlisle the train made short stops at Brinkley, at Black's Mill and at Devall's Bluff, and reached Forrest City about three o'clock in the afternoon. A large delegation of citizens awaited the arrival of the train at the depot, and the excursionists were escorted to a public hall, where a formal reception was given them by the Mayor of the city, who said:

*Gentlemen*.—As the chosen representative and Mayor of our town, I am happy to greet you with a hearty welcome, and I regret that the accommodations of this our inland country do not comport with the more extravagant hospitality you have met with in cities of greater wealth and population. But be assured, gentlemen, that from the great deep of our hearts, with true and generous feelings of Southern magnanimity, we invite you to our homes and the companionship of our families, and we earnestly trust that during your short stay with us you may blend your feelings with ours in that warm and genial manner which proves the touchstone of Southern hospitality.

The response on the part of the visitors was by Mr. C. Aug. Haviland, who said:

Many of those who visit your State to-day have visited you on other occasions less pleasant than this. Then they came as enemies, to-day they come as brothers and friends, bearing the olive-branch of peace, and recognizing the fact that your sons and brothers were no less earnest, no less devoted to principle, than were our own sons and brothers of the North. We find your deeds of heroism recorded in letters of gold upon every page of our country's history, side by side with those of our own brave boys in blue, and we believe that with one country, one flag and one destiny, we shall dwell together as brothers and friends for evermore.

A committee of citizens then conducted the visitors to dinner. After dinner the carriages were brought out, and all the members of the party were taken around the town and out into the suburbs, and given an opportunity to look at one of the finest sections of the State. About six o'clock they gathered at the train, and just before leaving a meeting was organized, with Mr. Prentiss, of Topeka, in the chair, and Mr. Haviland, of Chicago, as secretary, when the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this party are due, and are hereby tendered, to the officers of the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad for their kindness in placing a special train at our disposal, and thus enabling us to see the beautiful country through which their road passes; and also to the people of Forrest City, Carlisle, Lonoke, and other towns along the road, for the cordial and hospitable reception they have given us.

After a few short speeches by citizens and visitors, the party bade good-bye to Forrest City, and the train moved out for Little Rock, arriving at about one o'clock in the morning. The regular excursion train was here in waiting, and soon after the arrival of the Forrest City party, our editorial visitors were all aboard and

homeward bound. And thus ended one of the most important enterprises ever inaugurated in the State—one that will do more than any other to set the State in a true light before the Northern public and before the world.

The trains over these roads returned to the Union Depot about midnight Saturday, and the excursionists being all re-united, the following general resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, Having accepted the kind invitation extended to the Press of the Northwest to visit the State of Arkansas, and having viewed its lands, conferred with its people, and shared its hospitality, it becomes us to let our voice be heard; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the State of Arkansas, in "turning its back upon the past and looking forward to the future, forgetting all that is behind, and pressing forward to the high mark that is before," has taken the highest rank in the sisterhood of States, and not only shown its loyalty to the old flag, its love for our common country, and its desire to share one common destiny, but also its true realization of the fact that brotherly kindness will make Arkansas—with her delightful climate and untold wealth in its broad acres—one of the garden spots of America, to which the weary, hard-working, frost-bitten farmer of the North can turn with the hope of future comfort and happiness.

*Resolved*, That we cheerfully commend the State of Arkansas to all in search of comfortable homes, knowing that her millions of acres are just as inviting, that life and property are just as secure, as in any other State of the Union, and that a friendly greeting is awaiting all who may visit her towns or settle within the confines of her great commonwealth.

*Resolved*, That our thanks are due and are hereby tendered to Hon. Thomas Allen, A. W. Soper, Esq., Hon. J. M. Loughborough, T. B. Mills & Co., Col. G. P. C. Rumbough, the El Paso Stage Company, the Independent Stage Company, and the people of Little Rock, Hot Springs, Arkadelphia, Malvern, Walnut Ridge and others, who have without reserve enabled us to see all and judge for ourselves as to the advantages of this State; and we do not hesitate to declare our firm conviction that Arkansas is now one of the most inviting of our States for agricultural, mining and manufacturing pursuits.

After the adoption of these, and partaking of a repast prepared by the thoughtful care of Col. Loughborough, the editorial visitors once more boarded their special train, and at two o'clock Sunday morning started on their return home. Before reaching the State line a banner prepared by the citizens of Hope, in Hempstead county, was presented by Col. Loughborough; and at Arcadia, where the last dinner of the united party was partaken of, Mr. Geo. F. Marshall, of Cleveland, Ohio, made the following remarks:

#### SPEECH OF GEO. F. MARSHALL.

*Gentlemen of the Excursion*:—At this late hour of the grand series of festivities which we have been enjoying, I deem it no less an honor that you had but now discovered, from my ministerial appearance, that perhaps you had better preserve

the best of the wine for the last of the feast; there are very many of rare talents among this throng of editors who have not been forced to the front, and we need another week to bring them out—let every man show his hand.

You no doubt observed my hesitancy when so *unexpectedly* called to address you, and, to tell you the plain truth, I had been looking for this upon every occasion that speaking was expected or hoped for. My hesitancy was the occasion of a doubt which got hold of my mind whether I should begin, like the orator by name of Col. Mark Antony, in Roman history, and say: "Editors of the Northwest, *lend me your ears.*" I doubted whether it was best for me to incur so great an indebtedness while so far from home, without collaterals at hand, and concluded it best to push forward in the work you had called me to do with the small capital on hand and do the best I could.

Gentlemen, if there be any among you who will declare that they have seen in their lifetime clearer skies, a more genial climate, warmer hearts, grander rivers, better railways, hotter springs, purer ores, bigger cotton, better wines, prettier women, more fruitful fields, grander forests, better prairies, richer fruits, cheaper lands, larger corn, huger cucumbers, or a more generous welcome than has been exhibited to you during the week just passed, I would be pleased to know the countries you have traveled in. From the Tuesday evening, when we left the great city of St. Louis, to the present moment, we have had a tour of inspection and pleasure that cannot well be equaled on this continent; the elements and the kind and considerate hand of man have combined to make this excursion one to be remembered for a lifetime.

The sun came out of the starry night just as we crossed the line into Arkansas, and he never has ceased to shine upon us until the present hour, only to go down and rise the brighter every succeeding day. Some of you gentlemen went down into that fruitful land some years ago with a different purpose than that of to-day, but, in spite of all that, have you heard a word of regret, a word of hate, seen an unkind act, from any of that noble people, who are this day doing God's work to bring the State to a standard with her neighboring sovereignties? Not one! You have been well abroad in Arkansas, you have traversed a vast extent of her territory, and your eyes have been open well nigh all the day-time; and, as intelligent travelers, your note-books have been called into requisition every hour of the day, and pencils blunted and sharpened, and sharpened and blunted, until they are well nigh worn down to the merest stubs.

The purpose of this expedition has not been concealed. Cols. Loughborough and Mills tell you plainly what it is designed to accomplish. It was not a siren's song to allure you to these fields only to die with the echoes of sweet music in your ears, but it was that you might come and see for yourselves—spy out their lands, and come and live. It was not alone the intent that they should give you palace-cars to ride in and sumptuous warm meals every day (the like of which you never get at home), but they plainly tell you that they would like to have you tell the truth to your people at home. Will this be a hard task? Is it not possible for some people to vary their usual custom for once in a lifetime? What I would beseech of you for this time is that you continue to go forward in

the straight line of truth, for which we editors are so proverbial in the history of the past. Do not devote too much time and talents over small things. I was fearful that at Little Rock too much attention was paid to a small cucumber and the larger things neglected. Editors had their pocket tape-lines out measuring from blossom to stem, and then they took the circumference and noted all down, and I fear the great bundles of wheat, oats, corn, cotton, millet, barley, and the great piles of vegetables were measurably neglected. Be fair, gentlemen, and show no partiality, I beseech you ; serve all alike.

And now, you who had the pleasure of that runaway ride down the spur of the Ozark Mountains, where you were tipped over, and came off with but one horse killed, when you tell these perils to your wife (no one travels far from home but he has some wonderful story to tell), and if she should, in an aside whisper, remark that she "wished it were you instead of the poor horse," you need not heed that ; let it go for a fanciful freak of your fair wife's follies—perhaps she don't mean it.

At Malvern we were addressed by a native son of Arkansas. He gave us a hearty and a cordial welcome, and, with his closing words echoing in the forest, we steamed off for Hot Springs. You remember he told us, what was evident, that the country was new and undeveloped ; but, said he, we have the soil, the climate, the minerals, and all else that will make a great State, and if you will come and see us in a hundred years from to-day there will be a vast change. Many of us were convinced that less time than that would show a vast difference. For my own part, I do not intend to wait so long. I have made up my mind to go there, and take my family, this coming winter, and I know there will be some advancement even in that time.

Some years ago I was accosted by some Europeans upon their native soil with the taunt that my native land of America was young, and it had no grand work of art to show like Europe. "Well," said I, "that is pretty much so, but you have had a little the start of us ; if you will just take an inventory of what you have now on hand, and then give us the same time to work upon, and come over and compare notes, I dare say you will be disposed to hide your list and go home satisfied." By the way, my foreign friend, suppose you just come over now, and America can show you many a city that will make your eyes leave their sockets. He'll be coming along pretty soon.

In my town was a druggist of a genial, wide-awake turn ; he had one of those traveling agents who sometimes come West to try to sell things. The commercial man was from Boston. Perhaps you have heard of Boston ; it is somewhere near Cape Cod and is famous for its harbor, whose waters produce pure Bohea tea ever since just before the Revolution a whole cargo, fresh from China, was thrown in the water, and you may see the whole population with tin cans, like the Hot Springs people, going down to the Bay in the afternoon to get their daily supply. The commercial man was from Boston, I told you ; he went for my friend, the druggist, to sell him white lead ; he wanted to supply Cleveland and Ohio with white lead ; then he was going to a place out west called St. Louis, to supply that new country with all they wanted.

My druggist friend looked at the commercial man and inquired the capacity of his house—how much could they turn out a month? The commercial man told him.

“Now,” said my druggist, “you are a fool!”

The commercial man said, “That is plain talk.”

“Well, well, I’ll take it all back; and as you are going out there, and will perhaps stop on your way home, just drop in and see me and tell me what you think about it.”

Commercial man went—commercial man returned—he walked, tip-toes, into druggist’s store; he spied him in the back counting-room and shouted while afar off: “Say, old fellow, you was right about that; I never had an idea what a country it is! And what a city St. Louis is! it is perfectly grand; most as big as Boston! Why, I went into houses that had more white lead stowed away than I ever saw in one place in my life.”

It cuts one’s eye-teeth to travel, you know, and the more a man goes about the earth, the more he ought to know of the world; and railroad men know this pretty well, and there are railroad tracks clear into Boston now.

Gentlemen, my home is on the borders of Lake Erie; I am a farmer; I can overlook the vast expanse of blue waters, and they look rather refreshing to me in the dog-days; but ah, here is the rub—it is the winter time that those blue waters do not look so charming to the eye. If one has a powerful imagination he can see mint juleps and cooling iced beverages (where prohibition is not rampant), but it is afar off, and you don’t want it so cool just at that time. In January the lake begins to curdle with the cold, then I do not care to look off there so much as I did; by the middle of January ice is so thick that not a sail or steamer is seen on the whole expanse; we shut ourselves within ourselves; our sailors come home to have a good time with their families and friends, and we have got accustomed to it, and, like our Boston friends, have not seen where we could do better. Is it not a little queer that the people in Iceland are continually telling their young men to go north? I was speaking of Lake Erie; in December we freeze, in January we freezer, in February we freezest, in March we have a *gentle* thaw, in April it is a little more so, while in May the frost has oozed from the ground, and oh, what roads we have! and then our lake begins to be spotted over with white sails and black coal-smoke. In July and August we have it hotter than 90°, which is the compensation we get for the cold of winter. I have got used to all this; was brought up to it; have lived nearly forty years in sight of that lake, and I can stand it forty years longer if I am spared.

If a person had the choosing of his home at his birth, it is a question if he would take the same climate that his predecessor had chosen. There are all sorts of heat and cold to choose from, and we are made of various temperaments so as to assimilate to the climate, nevertheless there are other causes which set people to locating in countries, when, if they had their choice, they would go wide of that mark.

As long as you understand that I am a clergyman, what more do you want to know of me personally? But, as I have got your ears, I will tell you more.

I was born and bred, schooled and practiced a Democrat, all my life. I can't help it; have tried to throw it off, but it will not off; have lived all my days in an atmosphere overwhelmingly opposed to that political sentiment; was branded a copperhead, which I did not dislike; have been lied about and persecuted for my views; but notwithstanding, I have always been a bitter enemy of the once popular institution of slavery—I could not help that. And here is the point I wish to arrive at; has not that been the only stay to the proper progress of this vast Southwest? You may answer this when you go home, but I will answer it for myself now, and you know the answer is yes! And emphatically, yes! Take the map of the United States and scan it for yourselves, and your own knowledge will tell you that the best soil and climate lies below the fortieth parallel of latitude; and do you doubt, gentlemen, that if the make-up of the social institutions of the South had been different, that the weight of population below that parallel would have been greater to-day than above it?

We are now in a new world as it were. It is new to us and the people with whom we have visited; it is peculiarly new. They have been oppressed as never men were before; it is idle to recite the record, but none of you can go home and point to a word or act that would imply that those good people are not in earnest in assuming the condition of things to be well established, and that we have all got the stern fact to stare us in the face, that their world has got to be begun anew.

They offer to the world vast fields of land, new and old, not especially that they want to get rid of the land; what they need most is the men and implements of the North and West to go into the cotton-fields and make them laugh in the noon-day sun. They need no speculator to come and take their lands to lie idle, that some hard-working man may till the adjoining lands that will ultimate in the enhancement of their values. They need men and implements, and all that which is necessary to bring this rare soil to its full bearing.

I have a neighbor who has a large tract of land just in view of Cleveland. He will sell only to those who wish to occupy it. I saw a customer approach him for a portion which he wished to buy. When asked what he wished to do with it, he replied, "Hold it for a rise." The reply was, that he was able to do that himself; what he desired was actual settlers.

Now I have no fears that you editors will come back here to buy on speculation, for editors are a people who have little scrip in their purses, and naturally expect to be deadheaded clear through; but you will find some day, if not in your lifetime, a barrier where the free list is absolutely suspended.

Gentlemen, have you ever, in your intercourse with the world at large, met a more genial, gentlemanly and companionable man than Col. Loughborough? Do you say no? I believe you; if you never told the truth before, I think you told it this time. The Company did well when they put him at the head of their wild lands. I think you could not disturb the equanimity of that man's temper if you provoked him to the remotest degree; and if I have said a word about him before, I know you will pardon this repetition, for the expedition would have had no commanding officer but for him; and but for his presence in the unfortu-

nate coach that was thrown down the mountain side, I make no doubt but many of you would be playing poker with the rich man we read of in Luke, chap. xvi. The incense of that man's good deeds has spread wider and higher than his own State of Arkansas, and you know that this excursion has been doubly interesting with his presence, and would have been dull and uninteresting in his absence. Long live the Colonel!

Have I not said enough? Had any of you doubts about the general make-up of the people in Arkansas—I mean you Republicans who were honest in your political outcrop? Excuse me, but I have seen Republicans who were not honest. There are none of that sort here; but did you not have an idea that a native of Arkansas was a fierce devil of a chap with an eye that would look you out of countenance, while hidden and exposed about his person a whole armory of death-dealing implements? I must confess for myself that the schooling I have had led me to think that they all carried ugly knives and revolvers. Have you heard of anything of the sort while here? Yes, a little boy at Walnut Ridge, where we had our first meal, was carelessly playing with a couple of bass wood toothpicks, made in a town a few miles east of my home (Paineville), and that is the nearest, I dare say, that any of you have come to beholding those proverbially deadly weapons among the natives. We had best, all of us, button up our fears and make up our minds that we have labored under a sad mistake.

Somewhere in Roman history I have read that a race of people came to a section in Italy where the wine was especially good, and they settled down there at once on that account, simply because they had such good wine; that may be a good enough reason for a people like theirs to take up lands and make a home. The same sort of thing was seen at the Arlington in Hot Springs. A tribe of men were incontinently led to the rooms of Dr. Lawrence, where Scuppernong after Scuppernong was broken and drank, and the whole tribe settled right there, took up chairs, and concluded to spend a good share of their remaining days with the Doctor. My room-mate, McClure, who was assigned with me to room 78 at the Grand Central, who should have been at home from the grand hop at least at two A. M., never put in an appearance at all. He was following the Roman custom, I fear, and settled down where the wine was good.

Gentlemen—I should say editors—believe me if you will, but I have mingled with that Italian people and have drank the wines that had such magnetic power as to draw a whole colony to her lands; have tasted the wines from Venice to Naples, and from Genoa to the Baden sea—there was nothing in them, to my perception, that would make a set of men pitch their tents and make a life-work of it. How they could enthuse over such cheerless stuff as that, one cannot comprehend; but that was more than two thousand years ago. Perhaps the climate and soil have changed, and the spirit of the sun and the soil, perhaps, has been transferred to the fields of Arkansas.

You all have heard it from a source that cannot be controverted, that some Frenchmen, at an early day, cultivated a native grape to a marked success and afterwards carried slips to their native land, and to-day that grape is the delight of all France in the making of her best wine. Stranger things than all this have



happened. Our neighbors of Mexico produced the potato, which has become known only as the Irish product, and Mexico is only known in history as the father of the tuber. France will not give Arkansas her due credit; and if she does, it will be so worked into her half-accented words that none but Frenchmen will comprehend the fact in the title. Another glass if you please, Doctor.

You have traversed from north to south, from east to west, over that new State, and are pretty well able to tell what has passed before your eyes. You have seen a good share of the State and had a good sight of the following counties: Clayton, Greene, Randolph, Lawrence, Jackson, White, Lonoke, Pulaski, Saline, Hot Springs, Clark, Prairie, Monroe, St. Francis, Faulkner, Conway, Pope, Johnson, and perhaps some have seen Franklin, Crawford and Sebastian—quite enough, one would suppose, to form some idea of the State at large. Like all other States in our Union, the railways seek to traverse the level lands; and the outlook from a car window is never to be taken for a sample of the lands in the immediate neighborhood. You saw the green surface of the pools along this track as we first struck the State. You looked with a critical eye and did not like that, nor did I; but the same thing is apparent in much older countries, and is only overcome by continued drainage and cultivation.

I doubt if you editors ever traveled over a road more evenly balanced or better managed than the Iron Mountain and Southern Railway; it is equal to the reliable "Bee Line" road, and forms a direct thoroughfare with that line from the great lakes and the New England States to the Gulf of Mexico. For safety, speed, and ease in transit, these lines are a marvel of enterprise, and not surpassed in the Union for the completeness of their various appointments. Perhaps I have said that Mr. Soper, the Superintendent of this road, told me that he was somewhat chary about sending this excursion train wild upon the line when so many trains were in jeopardy. Our train was run only by orders at every telegraph station, and that occasioned some little delay so that we should be quite out of each other's way; and when our excursion party lands safe in St. Louis, which I have but little doubt it will in a few hours, Mr. Soper will have a load off his mind, and the cars will be relieved of a mass of dead-head weight that if they could speak out audibly, they would shout, in the language of the apostle, "Good riddance!"

You will again indulge me in a matter purely personal to myself. By the chance of circumstances I have been thrown among a company of entire strangers; not one of them had I ever beheld, unless it be Col. Loughborough, whom I had only met the morning of the departure for the excursion. Either from the fact that I represented the *Cleveland Sunday Morning Voice*—a sprightly, independent paper—or that some one had fancied a sage and sacerdotal look in the corner of my eye, I got to be regarded as a *clergyman*. It took a day for me to find this out. Boxes were brought in our car and opened, and there were bottles in them, and something was in the bottles; I could hear whispers and see passages at arms' length, and things went and came, and my nose was a suspension bridge across the Mississippi. Bottle after bottle was emptied and the incense went all about; I could smell it well enough, but why!

and wherefore! what have I done? It was myself that investigated and found that they had put *Rev.* to my name in the list, and every one was afraid of me. How quick I dispelled that gloom and made things lively thereafter! Why I allude to this subject is that you may take a lesson and be careful that so grave an error may not occur in the future. Up with us, the clergy get the best and are often athirst, but I think if our ministers emigrate into Arkansas with good habits and frank manners they may be regarded as other human beings and treated accordingly. Let brotherly love abound and let the bottles go around. It's a serious matter to be slighted in one's own country.

There was a local itinerant preacher that formerly came to my neighborhood to preach; he was not of my sect. It was his habit, like the earlier apostles, to work or fish week-days and preach now and then on Sunday. He got a good dinner when he came to the country, and perhaps that is how he came to hear the call to preach. He told me that he met one of his old hearers one day and asked him how he liked his sermons.

"Well," said he, "I liked them pretty well when you was preaching, but then I liked it a darned sight better when you got through."

For your careful attention, gentlemen, I can do no less than thank you.

Having thus given a short sketch of the trip through Arkansas, we shall now give the comments of the various editors, classifying them by States.

## CHAPTER VI.—ILLINOIS.

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FROM THE "LAND OWNER," CHICAGO.

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GEO. F. CODD, CORRESPONDENT.

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WHEN, the other day, a grand excursion was suggested over the State of Arkansas, by the Land Commissioner of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad, and several real estate agents of Little Rock,\* the project was eagerly entered into by the citizens of the State, and invited guests responded pretty generally that they would join the party. About the same time the cable told us that Victor Emmanuel, of Italy, was sending delegates out on the Roman Campagna, to see what could be done towards its reclamation and improvement, and its restoration to what it was when Cæsar harvested his enormous crops of cereals from the rich soil of the now miasmatic swamp. The two incidents seemed somewhat akin; yet one the anti-pode of the other. What need of spending millions to fructify the wasted Campagna when the broad fields of Arkansas stretch toward the horizon, redolent with hidden treasures, inexhaustible soil, peace, plenty and prosperity? The star of empire has left those old fields. The Roman of to-day can bring his bread-stuffs from America cheaper than he can reclaim the old waste places of Europe. The Italian mendicant must leave the shadow of the great aqueducts and become an independent citizen of the New World. The kings may not like it, but who cares half as much for the kings as for a free and independent life? These thoughts came trooping across the mind as we took our seats in the Pullman car at St. Louis, *en route* for Arkansas. Naturally enough, we thought of the hotel in the Corso, and the day we were dragged out behind a pair of mules of the true Roman type to see the wasted fields about the Eternal City. But we are going now to a mightier State than Europe possesses to-day, mightier in its

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\*The invitation to the *Land Owner*, as well as to all the other papers invited, was signed by Col. J. M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner of the St. L., I. M. & S. R. R., and by Messrs. T. B. Mills & Co., real estate agents, of Little Rock. The resolutions adopted by the guests, just before starting home, thanked Col. Loughborough and Messrs. T. B. Mills & Co. for the courtesies extended, so that the use of the words by Dr. George F. Codd, "several real estate agents," could hardly have been an inadvertence.

tremendous possibilities, its enterprising inhabitants, and in its inexhaustible resources, capable of feeding and enriching the entire population of that Old Italy of which it is the counterpart in soil and climate.

But comparisons to the dogs; we are off from St. Louis, in company with two hundred and fifty newspaper publishers—a grand American army of occupation, whose pens are turned into plowshares for the nonce, to plow Arkansas to the hard-pan and see what there is in her. Loughborough is happy; Mills smiles the smile of a just man made perfect; the engine breathes ardently the spirit of power born of Arkansas coal in her furnace, and the ever wide-awake man of the *Land Owner* sees everything and puts it down like a recording angel. It is the quarter-sections of Arkansas he is after. He knows that land is the basis of all security, and of this excursion. He knows that his journal was the pioneer in the land world. He knows it rebuilt Chicago, and he wants to give Arkansas a lift. Away, then, with fine sentences by way of preface!

#### THE START.

We left St. Louis at nine P.M., September 28, on a special train of Pullman cars, over the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad, cordially placed at our disposal by the directors of that Company, and kept the course of the Mississippi river for upwards of 30 miles, when we entered the forest, and as night was far advanced, the party retired to their berths. At daybreak next morning the bright rays of the sun cleared away the dewy vapors of the night, but we found little of interest on our route over the Iron Mountain road till we reached

#### NEWPORT,

which is the capital of Jackson county, with a population of 600. It is located on the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad and the White river, and, like all its sister settlements in this new and opening-up country, is just developing itself. It is within 77 miles of Little Rock, is becoming quite a promising location; several clearings of the lands have been made in its vicinity and now produce fine cotton and corn crops, promising a plenteous future for the settler. For a considerable distance along the line of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad, swamps abound in the low lands, but this is not to be wondered at, as the lodgments of water and the tributaries from springs naturally lead to this state of things in the low forest brush; but the industry of man is fast marching on, and ere long rich fertile crops must take the place of stagnant swamps. It may be inferred from these facts that provender and hay for stock is scarce, but in lieu of hay they feed on the rich, sweet, leafy crop of "mast," or leaf of the sweet cane, which grows in rich plenty in these regions. It is a good substitute for hay, and when touched by the frost is more palatable to stock.

#### JUDSONIA

was next reached, and at the station quite an interesting item met our eyes as we dashed along. A handsome flag of welcome was hoisted by the Judson University, bearing these words, "The pen is mightier than the sword. Welcome to

the editors." Judsonia is situated on the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad, in White county. It is 292 miles from St. Louis, and 53 miles north-east of Little Rock, lying in one of the most lovely and healthy portions of the State. Here the celebrated Judson University is located, which received its charter March 27, 1871. It is an institution of which the State may well be proud. Its course of instruction comprises every branch of a classical and commercial course, under the most efficient staff of professors and teachers. After passing this point we found no other of note till we reached

## LITTLE ROCK.

This city lies nearly in the centre of the State, on the south side of the Arkansas river, in Pulaski county, and is the capital. It was laid out in 1820, and became incorporated 1835. It has made great advances in trade and commerce since the late war, but more recently from the facilities opened up by the new lines of railroads, together with her navigable river trade, making this city a great and important business centre.

Its population has increased marvelously every year. In 1860 it numbered 3,800, while this year it claims fully 20,000 inhabitants. In her buildings Little Rock has made great additions within the last few years, several fine stores and private residences having been erected. The railroads centering here are the Memphis & Little Rock, Cairo & Fulton and Little Rock & Fort Smith. Her

Personal property is.....	\$1,489,025 34
Real property.....	5,295,925 00
Total ratable.....	\$6,784,950 34

Manufacture of sash, doors and blinds is extensively carried on by Cook, Gibb & Co., established in 1867 by Cady & Gibb, to which firm the present one succeeded. They manufacture every class of lumber for building, etc.; their mills were the first established west of the Mississippi and south of St. Louis. They afford employment to about 100 hands, and the character and quality of the work they turn out will bear comparison with any similar establishment in the Southern States. A beautiful specimen of cabinet work has just been made by the firm for the Centennial, from the variegated fancy woods of the forest, which must win a prominent position in the great Exposition.

The educational institutions of Little Rock comprise the free schools, which are well organized and have a daily attendance of about 2,000 children. There are two colleges and about six private schools. Her churches comprise the various religious denominations. The press is well represented by the *Gazette*, a daily morning (Democratic) journal, and the *Star*, a daily evening paper. The *Spirit of Arkansas* (monthly), one of the best farming and land papers in the South, is published by T. B. Mills & Co., with a circulation of 20,000 copies. Her real estate business is represented by a large number of operators doing a fair trade in their line.

The character of the soil or the surrounding lands is well suited for grain and fruit culture. Several orchards show thrifty growth. Vast portions of it are fit

for any farming products. Timber grows in great varieties, consisting of pine, white oak, hickory, black walnut, etc. The chief products are cotton, which, on alluvial soil, yields one bale, corn from 50 to 75 bushels per acre. Minerals are in great variety in the county and are equal if not superior to any other found in the State. Splendid deposits of porcelain clay and granite are also found, of fine quality for building, with limestone and fire-clay.

The excursion train arrived here at about 9 o'clock on Wednesday morning, and when the special train of Pullman cars neared the depot, the brass band of Little Rock played a glad and joyful welcome. Here all was in readiness to greet and receive us as if it were with open arms, the citizens having assembled at the depot. Col. Loughborough and Mills soon made the most admirable arrangements, and allotted the guests in parties of from six to ten to each of the prominent citizens for entertainment. This being completed, we entered the carriages in waiting, and various routes of procession round the city were taken to see it from all points. Each host took his party to his house, where splendid banquets were served, and after this we visited the various public buildings and the agricultural specimens and products collected in the museum. Here we found some of the finest samples of corn and grain, cotton and fruits in endless varieties, minerals and vegetables, some of the most beautiful veined fancy woods ever witnessed, all of the State's production. In the evening a grand banquet, on a truly royal scale, was given, the tables being laid out in the form of a Maltese cross, and literally groaning under the splendid luxuries and delicacies, with the choicest wines and fruits that wealth and taste could procure. At 9 P. M. the party were seated, and the Hon. J. M. Loughborough was called to the chair. After a short address to the guests, they partook of the viands. The toasts given and responses thereto were hearty and intelligent, which space compels us to omit. Suffice it to say that the party arose at a late hour, all in the best of spirits.

#### PALARM.

This is a station on the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad, and distant about  $16\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Little Rock. It is a splendid corn-producing district, and we witnessed some of the stalks fully from 12 to 14 feet high, with as fine a crop as could be found anywhere in the State. We measured some of the ears and found them fully nine inches long, with six inches of circumference, and the lands producing these crops have never yet been manured, the secreted and accumulated vegetable matter which has formed for ages having made the most fertile soil. Here, too, we found the most splendid cotton crops ever produced, the yield of which was fully one and a half bales to the acre, or, to say from 600 to 700 pounds, the marketable value of which is from 12 to 15 cents per pound, which would make the yield equal to \$100 per acre. One producer has a farm of about 600 acres, 400 of which are under cotton, the balance being mostly corn and cereals.

The coal mines near here are of the best quality, and only want capital and labor to yield a fortune. There are silver and gold mines, too, in this location, but they lack the same requisites to work them.

## CONWAY.

This is a rapidly improving and fast advancing little town, about two years old. It is situated on the L. R. & F. S. R. R., and is within 30 miles of Little Rock. It is in the midst of a fine forest, with little patches of prairie lands cleared about it. It has some fine fire-clay for the manufacture of bricks, and a large store has just been built of them which is a credit to the enterprising spirit of her people. The activity and life shown here bespeaks future prosperity for the town.

## MORRILTON.

This is a station on the L. R. & F. S. R. R., and situated 50 miles from Little Rock. It is among the richest cotton, corn, and fruit producing sections of the State. Some of the most splendid specimens ever produced of fruits, corn, cotton, grapes, potatoes and vegetables were laid out on tables at the station for our inspection. We found some apples here so large and rich that one would be a good dessert for three persons, many of them weighing one and a half pounds. A specimen of the Tonqua cucumber was shown us weighing 64 pounds, this being the largest as yet ever produced on record in this State. The sample of cotton shown is from lands producing one and a half bales to the acre. A sample of a field of beans, which has yielded fully 200 bushels per acre, was shown, also samples of the finest corn crop, measuring 12 to 14 feet high, the entire platform of the depot being filled with the evidences of this rich producing point. The leading citizens and many of the Lewisburg inhabitants, distant about five miles from this station, assembled in large numbers to greet us with a cordial welcome. A committee of gentlemen was formed for our reception, the address being delivered by Dr. Stout, the editor and proprietor of the *Weekly State*, a very ably conducted journal of Lewisburg, who gave a fair and accurate description of this portion of the State of Arkansas, which was, in fact, a proof of previous reports and facts corroborated by our own personal inspection. In the eloquent address Dr. Stout delivered, he said it was a matter of regret to the citizens that we did not arrive at an earlier hour, that they might have given us a more suitable and hospitable reception, and evinced their marked sense and high appreciation of our visit. A flag, bearing the harp of Erin and the shield of the old kings of that land, with the words "Caed Mille a Failte," was raised by the Irish portion of the citizens, which spoke volumes for the sincerity of our welcome.

## RUSSELLVILLE.

This is the next station on the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad; it is 75 miles from Little Rock. It numbers a population of about 1,500. Corn grows in great abundance in its surroundings. The celebrated coal mines of Ouita are situated within two and a half miles of the depot, with a track laid to their shaft, and this is conceded to be the best coal for household and steam purposes. They give employment to a large number of hands in working them. The company was organized on the 1st of January, 1874, and has a board of directors and a

general office in the city of Little Rock, and from the situation of this very remarkable coal-bed, its superior facilities for transportation to all points in the State, it is the most available coal west of the Mississippi river and south of Missouri and Kansas, having railway connection with Memphis, Tenn., St. Louis, Mo., Jefferson and Dallas, Texas, and Shreveport, La., and two other railroads nearly finished, which gives a much shorter route to the Mississippi at Helena and Chicot, where, in the future, the fleet plowing the great father of waters may get a fuel free from smoke and the unpleasant odor that at present makes a trip by river so very disagreeable. This coal offers special advantages for all manufacturing purposes, and saves a vast amount of capital from its great steam generating qualities, its cleanliness and freedom from clinkers. No better fuel could be used for all household purposes.

The coal-bed extends over 500 acres of land in Pope county, through which the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad runs, also the Illinois bayou, a navigable stream, which flows into the Arkansas river, giving a choice of water or railroad transportation to the company—great advantages—enabling them to offer their coal at a less figure than other companies where the cost of transportation adds materially to it. The company are now enabled to supply any demand, the mines being sufficiently extended and in full working order; and the Ouita Coal Company is bound to exercise an influence over the great interests of Arkansas, both financially and commercially, and become an established power in the land. Mr. Thos. Lafferty is managing director, and his thorough business experience and well-known efficiency in all executive matters renders him one of the most suitable and competent men who could be selected for the high commercial post he fills, not only in this company, but as a leading and prominent merchant and citizen of Little Rock, and an alderman in her council. We are safe in saying that these mines, in a very short time, will be known throughout the entire North and Southwest, and the coal must be used by the great railroad companies in these sections of the State.

#### CLARKSVILLE.

This is a thriving and stirring little city, situated on the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad, in Johnson county, within 101 miles of the city of Little Rock, and 19 miles of Altus, the terminus of that line. It enjoys a population of about 1,500 inhabitants, and is the county seat of Johnson county. Its trade embraces cotton-gins and grist mills, the busy hum of their machinery evincing an active demand. It is in a great grain and corn-producing district, with splendid cotton crops. We saw some superior samples of wheat for grinding into flour at the mills, and the flour produced might compare with the best qualities of St. Louis brands. No better cotton crop in the State than the samples seen under process of ginning here. There has lately been discovered one of the richest coal-beds in the State, situate within one and a half miles of the railroad depot and the river, and within thirty-seven feet of the surface of the earth. It is known as "Horsehead, or Curry's Mines." The quality of the coal has been tested by most experienced analysts, and it is now wholly used by the Memphis



and Little Rock Railroad, and pronounced to be the best coal for heating and the generation of steam, being free from clinkers or cinders, and very little ash or smoke. It is about being tested by the St. Louis, Iron-Mountain and Southern Railroad, with a view to its being used by that line also. As a household coal it is equal to any in use, and is free from all unpleasant odors. The vein is four feet three deep, and runs from eight to ninety-three feet, and must ere long prove a great mine of wealth to its owner. Col. Curry is about organizing an incorporated company to open extensive operations for its general use. Every kind courtesy was shown us here, and a glad welcome expressed at our visit. We were obliged to leave soon, as the evening was advancing, and entering the train, we continued our route to Altus, at which point we bid farewell to the train and that branch of the excursionists who joined us to the end of this line of rail, they returning and we going on by stage through fifty miles of forest road to Fort Smith and Van Buren, on the route to which we passed several important and productive settlements, with some of the best farms in the northwest part of the State.

#### ALTUS.

This is the name of the present station which is the termini of the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad, and is situated 120 miles from Little Rock. It is only about six months established, and yet it has a population of about 250 inhabitants, the oldest settlers being Mark Hogan, who has been a resident here for 60 years, and Dr. S. H. Chem, for 40 years. Wheat, corn and fine fruits are produced here, but its chief product is cotton. From this point to all stations between here and Fort Smith the mails and passengers are transported thither by stage. Col. Curry, the mail contractor and stage proprietor, kindly placing his splendid stage at our service, we set out on our long night's journey on Saturday night and arrived early on Sunday morning at Van Buren, where we had a good breakfast, and entering our stage with our good host, the Colonel, we crossed the Arkansas river in a ferry and then drove on to Fort Smith, where we got a rest after our long ride. We would here express our deepest gratitude to Col. Curry for his unbounded friendship and courtesy, and upon the genial companionship met in him, we managed to pass the time so swiftly and intellectually we scarcely felt it on our long jaunt.

#### FORT SMITH.

This city was laid out in the year 1834, and became incorporated in 1842. Major Bradford, of the United States army, first established the Fort. It has a population of about 5,000 inhabitants. It is situated on the Arkansas river, one hundred and seventy miles from Little Rock, and lies five miles from Van Buren on the opposite bank of the river, the river being ferried for all transportation. It is about fifty-five miles from Altus, the termini of the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad, and has communication by stage with that station. It is the county seat of Sebastian, which lies west of the State, being bordered by the Indian Nation on the west and the Arkansas river on the north. It is at the head of steamboat navigation and adjoins the Government Reserve, which is

between it and the Nation. The character of the land is rolling prairie, with the most fertile soil, and there is no better land for fruit or for farming purposes in any county in the northwest portion of the State. It is well adapted for stock-raising, as the grasses are rich and grow luxuriantly. The chief products are cotton, the average yield being about one bale per acre, corn from forty to seventy bushels, with good crops of wheat and oats. The Irish and sweet potatoes produce fine crops. The climate is gentle and mild, and every description of vegetable grows in great abundance and perfection. Game and fish are abundant. Deer, bear, turkeys, geese, etc., etc., are easily procured. Coal is one of her greatest mineral products, and lies in plenteous supply close to the surface. It is brought into town by the farmers and traded to the citizens for merchandise. When the present projected railroad is completed the trade in this article will become enormous, as for all household and manufacturing purposes it has no superior. We had an opportunity of personally testing this on our inspection of its heating qualities. It is free from smoke and unpleasant odor, and produces no clinker and very little ash. Timber is in bounteous supply in the splendid forests, consisting of oak, ash, hickory, black walnut, etc. Lead is found in large strata, but the lack of capital prevents the opening up of mines. The ore would yield fully 75 per cent. About six miles from the city splendid iron ore is found, yielding 45 per cent., but no capitalist has yet operated or opened it up. We saw fine specimens of minerals and products of every description at the office of the *Independent*, which proved fully our personal inspection elsewhere. The scenery for miles around is truly lovely, and the outskirts of the city are studded with charming villas with richly cultivated gardens. The press is well represented here by the *Independent*, a good weekly issue, John Wheeler & Co., editors and proprietors; the Fort Smith *Herald*, established in 1847 (James H. Sparks), an old journal of influence and note; and the *New Era*, commenced in 1863, a Republican journal, V. Dell, editor. The city is well provided in her educational establishments, while her religious denominations have their churches. It is a matter of deep surprise to us that the possessors of capital do not avail themselves of the immense resources of this portion of the State for the facilities offered for all manufactures. Her splendid timber, her coals, her ore (iron and lead), her grand river for transportation, and the lines of rail projected to it, offer inducements gigantic in their character for a return of wealth.

On our arrival at this city we were received by the citizens and treated in the warmest and most cordial manner. The shortness of our stay precluded any public demonstration. The want of railroad and telegraphic communication prevented the citizens from a timely notice of our arrival, hence our grateful thanks are the deeper for their spontaneous friendship. An elegant dinner party was projected for us the day of our departure at the residence of Dr. Bailey, and the *elite* of Fort Smith were present. It was one of the most agreeable and friendly receptions we met on our entire trip. Gen. Bonneville and wife, Col. Fishback, Dr. Maine and wife, etc., made up the parting banquet. The citizens of Van Buren had carriages in readiness to convey us to their city in order to be availed of the few short hours we had before we bid them farewell. We would here pay

a tribute to the peace, law and order which prevail throughout every section of our route, and even on the very borders of the Indian country the laws are observed and submitted to, and the greater number of criminals confined in the jails are there for crimes committed in the Indian Territory against the State laws. A large trade is carried on by the merchants of the city with the Indian Nation under license of the Government, the better educated of the red men being in the most friendly intercourse, and desirous of a more civilized form of constitution and union with our own great institutions and laws.

## LEWISBURG

is a neat and fast improving and thriving town, situated about 50 miles from Little Rock, on the Arkansas river, and distant from Morrilton, on the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad, about four miles. It became an incorporated town in 1869. D. H. Thomas is Mayor. It is a considerable shipping point to the markets north, west and south, the transactions in cotton alone being over 5,000 bales this season. It may be said the entire surroundings fairly compare with the best producing lands of Arkansas for its productions in wheat, oats and corn, cotton and fruits, in the richest and most luxuriant qualities, many of the samples of apples being fully from one and a half to one and three-quarter pounds. Potatoes are of superior description, and yield fully 300 bushels to the acre of Irish, while the sweet potato cannot be excelled for health and flavor. An able newspaper is printed here from the press of William Stout, the editor and publisher. It is a weekly sheet, and a credit to the intelligent, enterprising spirit of its proprietor and the citizens of Lewisburg. There are about one dozen good mercantile houses largely engaged in trade, both in the export of its products and the importation of goods.

## DARDANELLE.

This thriving and happy little town is located on the south bank of the Arkansas river, 75 miles west of Little Rock, in Yell county, and has a population of about 2,500 inhabitants. Russellville is the railroad depot, and is within four miles of the town, thereby giving the great advantage of transportation, not only by rail, but by river, Dardanelle being a very important shipping point to St. Louis, New Orleans and Memphis. The chief products and trade of this point are cotton and corn, with wheat, which was grown largely this season, 150,000 bushels in Yell county alone having been produced of the latter for the supply of markets trading with this point, which is the largest trading point in the State above Little Rock. Dardanelle was incorporated before the last war, and consequently enjoys an advanced celebrity in its fiscal arrangements over more recently fixed cities. It has an able paper, the *Independent*, a weekly issue of intelligence, M. M. McGuire being its efficient editor and proprietor. H. A. Howell is Mayor of the city, and M. Jessup Postmaster. It has about twenty large and extensive business houses engaged in wholesale trade and exporting, with about fifteen smaller merchants in retail business.

## LONOKE.

This town is situated on the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad, is about 25 miles distant from Little Rock, and is the county seat. It is in the center of the county, and is fast building up. A railroad is in contemplation to connect the town with Pine Bluff, which will join the Cairo and Fulton road near Ward's Station, which, when completed, will open up new enterprise for this point. Its press is represented by the *Democrat*. A delegation of the citizens met us at the depot, and escorted us through the town. The Memphis & Little Rock Railroad Company very kindly offered us a train for a ride over their road, to run down to Forrest City, for a jaunt through the prairie section of the State.

## CARLISLE.

This is a station in Prairie county, on the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad. It is not yet of sufficient importance to call for any lengthened description. It is in the center of good productive lands, and will ere long have its place on the records of the State as a prosperous point. Our stay was sufficient to enable us to examine some splendid specimens of fruit and grain which were collected by the citizens for our inspection. One pear shown us weighed two pounds and four ounces. Apples are of superior quality. A new cotton gin and hay presses are in operation. We left here for the next point,

## BRINKLEY.

This is a great cotton and corn producing point, with hay and wheat crops in rich abundance, which are largely shipped to Memphis and New Orleans. The town is built on the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad, and was laid out about four years ago, and became incorporated within the last three years, M. Kelly being Mayor, and H. P. Medlikin Postmaster. It has a population of about 400 inhabitants.

## PRAIRIE CENTRE.

This is a station on the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad, 33 miles from Little Rock and 101 miles from Memphis, and within 14 miles of White river; shipping place at Duvall's Bluff. Hay is largely produced here, and fully 500 tons at present are exported to Memphis, Little Rock and Lower Mississippi river, at \$10 per ton from point shipped. M. M. Yeakle has erected a large hay press here, and controls the entire business in his line. He is now erecting a Dedrick Perpetual Press, which will turn out from 1,000 to 2,000 tons of hay for market in a season. Facilities are now opened for shipment by rail to Memphis and Charleston, affording a large market with the Gulf States. The fruit and nursery business is a new feature, large orchards being cultivated in the district. Game of all kinds, with prairie chickens and deer, are abundant in their seasons. The chief products of the surrounding lands are cotton, grain, fruit and hay.

## DUVALL'S BLUFF.

This town is situated in Prairie county, on the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad, distant from Little Rock 50 miles. It is not yet of such agricultural importance as to warrant us in dwelling on it. We leave it for this purpose to take its place in the onward march of progress of the State.

## FORREST CITY

is a rapidly-rising, prosperous city, with a population of 1,500 inhabitants. It was laid out in 1868, and was incorporated in 1871. W. S. Pope is Mayor, and H. L. Wright Postmaster. Madison is the county seat of St. Francis county, and has only 250 population. The city was originally founded by Col. W. H. Howes, of the firm of Dunn & Howes, lawyers.

Forrest City is built on the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad, and lies 95 miles distant from Little Rock. It is fairly represented by the *Forrest City Times*, a weekly issue, T. F. Oury, proprietor. The chief products are cotton, corn and grain, green crops and fruits, large shipments being made from here to Memphis, Little Rock and St. Louis. Its manufactures consist of flouring mills (E. R. Knight), with the grist mills of W. M. Aldridge.

Land in good districts in the country commands from \$5 to \$10 per acre in uncleared lots, and from \$12 to \$50 per acre in improved quarters. T. C. Davis is the Land Commissioner for the lands of the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad Company here. A large delegation of the citizens met us on our arrival, and escorted us to a public hall, where a formal reception took place, the Mayor making a short address. A committee of citizens then conducted us to dinner, after which we had a drive through the city and outlets, and after inspecting some of the finest section of the State, we again met at the depot at six o'clock.

## MALVERN.

This is the present connecting railroad point to the great "Hot Springs," the Baden-Baden of America. The line, at present in rapid course of completion, is expected to be opened by the 1st of January, 1876. Twelve miles are now laid, and when opened, the unpleasant stage route of 24 miles will be avoided, and thus prove of infinite advantage to the vast number of persons who resort to these healing waters. The town of Malvern is situated on the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, and is distant from Little Rock 42 miles, and 24 from Hot Springs. It was laid out in 1873, and now in so short a time has quite rapidly sprung up into a thriving little city, with a population of 400 inhabitants. Its chief trade is cotton, corn and grain, which are shipped mostly to St. Louis and Memphis. Valuable coal and silver mines have been discovered within eight miles, but they are not yet worked to much extent. Good vineyards are cultivated, and grapes will be largely grown in the season. Fruits of various descriptions grow in great luxury; apples grow frequently to 14 ounces, and peaches 9½ ounces. In the surrounding woods game is plentiful, consisting of deer, bear

and turkeys. The Wichita river is within one and a half miles, is the best water-power for manufacturing purposes in the State, and is well stocked with black bass and salmon, and affords ample sport for the angler. Several large stores are doing good business.

The most perfect arrangements were made here for the continuance of our route to the Hot Springs. A long line of open platform cars were waiting our arrival, and the beauteous sun lent its genial, smiling rays to gladden the hearts of that happy troupe. The pretty little town was wild with excited joy over the grand sight presented, and artists were busy preparing views of the scene, which will hold a place in the memory of her people for generations to come. At the call "all aboard," we started with glad hearts, with the shouts and cheers of the assembled citizens to give us a God-speed on our trip. A large cotton bush in full blossom, surmounted by a big golden-colored crown, was raised in front of the first car, significant of King Cotton, and at the side of the car garlands of evergreens and flowers were entwined, tied with the emblem colors of sincerity and friendship. Under the garland was a handsome flag with the word "Welcome" nicely painted thereon. Our route lay on the continuation of the line from Little Rock to the Springs, on both sides of us being grandly wooded hills, the gorgeous hues of the rich and variegated foliage adding a splendor and lustre to the glad vista into which, like a young giant, we were leaping with happy hearts.

At the present end of the line we were met by a cavalcade of the Hot Springs citizens, who came as a deputation for our reception, and to convey us in open carriages and stages to the Springs, the route lying thither through a grand dense forest. This route, in a very few months, will give place to the splendid narrow-gauge line, which is fast hurrying on and opening up smooth communication between the city of Little Rock and the world-wide and far-famed resort—the Hot Springs of Arkansas.

#### ARKADELPHIA.

This is one of the oldest cities in the State, and is situated on the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad (Cairo & Fulton branch), with a population of about 2,000 inhabitants. Here we were received by the citizens and escorted to the grand shady groves on the heights, where we were treated to a plenteous repast in the form of the old barbecue. The city has gradually advanced in its trade and commerce since the war, her merchants being determined to bury the past forever and join hand in hand with their Northern friends in making the entire Union one grand and solid band of united love and good fellowship from North to South. It is only within the last three years that the railroad company built a station at this point, the great products of fruit, corn and cotton making it a duty of the company to do so for transportation to the markets trading with it. Its chief staple trade is cotton, which is planted here in great profusion, and produces the most splendid crop, which, we observed, was being picked from the white fields, and which must well repay the farmer. This was the first point we met on our tour where the largest crops are found, and it fairly bespoke for

Arkansas her millions to be reaped this season. Here, too, may be seen great fields of splendid corn, the sight of which would gladden the heart of man. It was a pleasing scenic change to us after our long passage through the great forest, over a distance of 400 miles, since we set out on our excursion. The same kind and liberal feeling was shown us here as at every point on our entire route, and we are bound, in common justice to the people of Arkansas, to say that nothing could be more hospitable, open and friendly. The Valley of the Ouachita produces a grape superior in flavor and quality to most other regions, while all her other products of fruit, etc., are equal to any found in the entire State. In the evening a formal reception took place, and some fine addresses were delivered, giving an outline of the early history and products of the State, but more especially that portion of it; and at a late hour we left, retiring to our sleeping berths in our "special," which lay in waiting at the depot, and then returned to Little Rock, to take whatever route we pleased, some expressing a desire to go to Memphis, and others to Altus and on to Fort Smith, to visit the Indian Territory.

#### THE HOT SPRINGS OF ARKANSAS.

The city of Hot Springs derives its name from these great and justly celebrated springs. It has a population of about 2,500 inhabitants, but during the bathing season this number is more than doubled by tourists, excursionists and invalids from every part of the known world, the latter coming here for the renowned healing benefits of those marvelous waters, many of the springs bearing a temperature of from 110 to 150 degrees Fahr., the water from which, when cooled for general uses, is most refreshing as a beverage, and as clear as the finest crystal. Its healing qualities in its natural state are so marvelous that scarcely any invalid has ever used it but was soon cured. It is not possible, in the space at our command, to enumerate the various diseases these springs have eradicated. Neuralgia, rheumatism, consumption, and the various denominations of complaints to which flesh is heir, are effectually cured by these springs in an incredibly short space of time, when all the medical fraternity have given up the patient. One strange fact may be related of these celebrated springs. The water loses its medical qualities and chemicals after its transportation in wood, this having been proven by a gentleman of unquestionable authority who tried to open a trade for the waters in Chicago, and who shipped it in large quantities in barrels. It is a matter of note that the claimants to the lands on which the Hot Springs are located have been in litigation with the United States courts for twenty-five years, the case having been continued all that time in these courts. But the case is fully expected to be concluded in December next, and should the present holders and claimants succeed, they will secure a property which at present realizes fully \$100,000 a year to three parties alone.

The springs are very numerous, and burst up from the solid rock, the altitude of which is about 250 feet above the valley in which the city is built, and about 850 feet above the level of the sea; the pretty little city below, and the grand height of the two great hills on both sides, giving to the eye of an admirer of

fine scenery one of the loveliest objects for an artist that could be imagined. These splendid hills or gigantic rocks, like the Eagles' Nest at Killarney, being thickly planted by the hand of nature with the finest trees and evergreens, the hues of which, from the variegated colors of the gorgeous foliage, fall down on the little city, giving it an indescribable beauty which no pen can truly depict or artist paint, and must be seen to be appreciated. Here the poet might revel in delight, and the enthusiast go wild with a view of panoramic loveliness. Nothing could exceed the friendly hospitality of our reception by the citizens, who seemed to vie with each other in making us feel happy and welcome in catering to our comfort. It was our pleasure to meet some celebrities here who have made some beautiful collections of minerals, and achieved scientific discoveries in the different specimens shown us. Pleasant evening parties were gotten up for us at the different hotels we were stopping at, which were largely attended by the citizens.

The press is fairly represented by the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Daily Advertiser*. The medical profession has able and experienced practitioners. The chief hotels are the Arlington, Hot Springs-House, Grand Central and Waverly.

#### OZARK

is built upon the north bank of the Arkansas river, which divides it from the thriving little sister town of Webb City, and is only six miles distant from the terminus of the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad, at Altus. It has communication by stage, and carries on a considerable trade in cotton, corn and grain of every kind. It became incorporated in 1868. W. W. Jennings is the Postmaster of the town, and J. W. Gibson is the Mayor. Its population numbers about 1,000 inhabitants. Ozark, like all the river towns of the State, is fast advancing in trade, and ere long will become a great business point.

#### WEBB CITY

is situated on the south side of the Arkansas river, and distant from Altus (the terminus of the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad) about six miles, and lies immediately opposite the town of Ozark, on the north branch of the river. It has a population of about 100 inhabitants, who are mostly agricultural producers. Its chief products are cotton, corn, wheat and oats, cotton being the staple item of its trade. The Postmaster is T. P. Williams. It is fast adding to the growing trade and importance of the State of Arkansas, and from its energy and industry, must soon hold an important position in the list of her growing and thriving cities. It is reached by stage from the terminus of the Little Rock & Fort Smith line at Altus. Its entire surroundings are rich and fertile in their agricultural products.

#### ALMA

is a small town, situated about nine miles from Van Buren and 40 from Altus, the end of the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad, enjoying a population of about 300 inhabitants. It was originally founded by Col. M. L. Lock. It became



incorporated only eighteen months ago, and J. D. James has been elected Mayor. The fertile farming lands in the immediate vicinity and surroundings are of the richest kind, and the yield most productive in corn, wheat and cotton, especially in the Frog-bayou Bottoms, where the finest farms almost in the State are cultivated. There is a plenteous supply of water from the numerous streams and springs for all out-door and in-door necessities. The chief trade is in the sale of cotton, grain and wheat, and richly repays the producer, for it would appear that the earth yielded up her choicest fruits for man's use and benefit in plenteous and luxuriant crops, and that without any further aid in manure than what nature gave, and the hand of man needs only to sow and reap the result in wealth.

## VAN BUREN

is a thriving and fast-improving city, situated on the north bank of the Arkansas river, in Crawford county, and is the capital of the county and the county seat. It was laid out in 1839 and became incorporated in 1843, and has grown marvelously into a healthy and prosperous trading little city, with an enterprising spirit, having its mills and factories, and may fairly be called the young giant of the southwest portion of the State. Its population numbers about 1,500, with a county population of about 12,000. Its first Mayor was the Hon. J. B. Ogden; F. M. Neal now fills that office. Its merchants and traders enjoy a reputation for uprightness and soundness in all their transactions, not a single failure having occurred for years amongst them. The chief products of the surrounding fertile lands (which for 40 years have not required manure) are corn, the average yield being from 40 to 60 bushels, but where the land is cultivated it has yielded 100 bushels, the value being from 50 to 60 cents per bushel, the soil being fully fourteen feet deep in the bottoms, and has never failed in crops; cotton is extensively grown, and produces from one to one and a half bales to the acre, 5,000 bales having been obtained of this crop during the season; wheat has yielded from 12 to 20 bushels per acre, with a fine crop of oats, and on the uplands barley grows well. The splendid farming bottom-lands extend over 24 miles long, and are about 46 miles wide, comprising about 80,000 acres. The agricultural products of these fertile lands vie in richness and quantity with any State in the Union. The irrigation all along these bottoms is ample for all purposes, the tributaries of the Arkansas river and the rich springs abounding all along the hills giving their ample supply, and passing through Crawford county and Lee's creek, Flat Rock, Clear creek and Little Mulberry. On all the uplands there are the pine springs, fully from 25 to 40 feet deep below the surface. The lands of these heights produce good cereals and grapes of all kinds, the soil being malata, impregnated with iron ore.

The chief trade of Van Buren consists of the products of the rich surroundings, which are cotton and corn, with fine fruits, and an abundant crop of grapes, peaches and pears. Its manufactures embrace six flouring mills, with gin and cotton mills. Its educational schools number the free schools and some private establishments. It enjoys an intelligent press, J. S. Dunham being the editor

and publisher of the *Van Buren Press* (weekly), established 1859. The religious denominations are the Catholic, Protestant, Presbyterian, Episcopalian and Methodist Churches.

The citizens, for etiquette, friendship and hospitality, intelligence and social classes, may be ranked in the foremost States of the Union, while the agricultural population are regulated by the principles of peace and good fellowship among all men, the colored race being influenced and guided by those examples, and the entire country may fairly be said to be free from wickedness and vice, the laws being observed and freely submitted to.

The mineral products are ore and coal, which are found in great plenty on the streams, the coal being within a few feet of the surface in some places, while in many it is almost visible on the face of the earth, and is traded in the city by the settlers for merchandise, etc., each possessor of the land he holds being entitled to the coal and ore. The coal is excellent for household use and steam purposes, being almost free from ash and clinkers.

In our visit to this fine town, we were waited upon by a deputation of her leading citizens, who came over the river to the city of Fort Smith and escorted us from that city to theirs, which is distant about five miles, and separated by the splendid and wide Arkansas river, an ample ferry being built for transportation between the north and south banks at this point, many of the citizens of Fort Smith having accompanied us, and parted with regret and best wishes for our future prosperity; and the warmest hopes were expressed that the great Northwest and the entire world, through the medium of our welcome visit, should receive a true report of that and other portions of the State—the prosperity and fertility of Arkansas—and might lead many to come and enjoy the wealth of the finest land of the Southwest. We took our departure, late in the evening, from the truest men we ever met on any soil.

#### RECAPITULATION.

With the pleasantest memories of men and things, we returned from Hot Springs to St. Louis, thence to Chicago—so like Arkansas in great things, great doings and a great future. Home again after a most pleasant and profitable jaunt.

In concluding this somewhat desultory account of a journey fraught with so much pleasure, we have to say of Arkansas, briefly, that it is the coming State. To own land in Arkansas should be the ambition of every man seeking for a home in a great, prosperous and free commonwealth. The Government can stop its work of reconstruction in Arkansas. The reconstruction going on there is being accomplished by her own citizens, and should be imitated by the other States. Arkansas is an empire of peace, plenty and prosperity. Go thou and dwell there.

## FROM THE "STANDARD," CHICAGO.

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EDWARD GOODMAN, CORRESPONDENT.

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An invitation having been extended to the editors of three hundred papers of the Northwest to join in a grand excursion from St. Louis to Arkansas, about one hundred accepted, including the *Standard* and representatives of leading journals from Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas and Arkansas. The invitation was given by Hon. J. M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railway, and T. B. Mills & Co., dealers in real estate and securities at Little Rock, Arkansas. Its object was to give an opportunity to learn of the government and resources of the State, so that an intelligent report might be given to the country of the advantages Arkansas offers for those who desire to settle on Southern soil.

In company with four others from Chicago, I left on the excellently-managed Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Railroad, the evening of Monday, September 27. At 7.30 next morning, at Alton, I was kindly greeted by Rev. Dr. G. J. Johnson, and taken in his carriage to his hospitable home for breakfast. At 10 o'clock we went per rail to St. Louis, crossing the Mississippi river on the great iron bridge, passed through the tunnel to the Union Depot, and in a few minutes were landed at 209 North Sixth street, the St. Louis house of the American Baptist Publication Society, of which Dr. Johnson is the Depositary and District Secretary for the Southwest.

## THE EXCURSION.

At St. Louis, 9 P. M. Tuesday, with our hosts, Messrs. Loughborough and Mills, the excursionists boarded the cars at the Iron Mountain depot. The train consisted of four Pullman sleeping cars, one day car and baggage car. We were soon settled for the night, passed the Iron Mountain and Pilot Knob, and breakfasted at Walnut Ridge, in Arkansas, 225 miles from St. Louis, and about 20 miles south of the Missouri line. Here we saw evidence that we had landed in a cotton country, and one of the natives remarked that "*picking cotton is the most wurstest job connected with the business.*" A young black bear, lately caught near here, gave much sport to the crowd. This is a heavily timbered region and pretty level. Our next stopping place was Newport, where the railroad crosses White river, a navigable and very useful stream. At 1 P. M. Judsonia greeted us with the United States flag raised on three bales of cotton, and a banner with the inscription, "The pen is mightier than the sword. Editors, you are welcome." Rev. Benjamin Thomas, A. T. James and R. C. Browning, who are members of the Baptist Church here, and Trustees of Judson University, were on the platform to welcome us. The train arrived at

## LITTLE ROCK,

the capital of the State, about 3.30 p. m. The visitors were received with music and hearty welcome, and were distributed among about forty of the citizens, and hospitably dined at their houses. I, with Prof. Joseph E. Ware, of St. Louis, and Mr. G. F. Marshall, of Cleveland, were welcomed to the elegant house of Hon. J. M. Loughborough, and with him and his accomplished wife and interesting children spent a pleasant hour, after which we were driven round the city, Mrs. Loughborough being our guide.

We noticed the fine location of Little Rock, the old mansions, Gov. Garland's house, the arsenal, and the grand magnolia and other trees which adorn the city. At the Chamber of Commerce was an agricultural exhibition of the products of the State—cotton, corn and the small grains, the grasses, vegetables (a cucumber weighing 57 pounds), fruit, coal, wood, etc. A specimen of bird's-eye pine and white holly specially attracted attention. At the shops of the St. Louis, Little Rock & Iron Mountain Railroad, had been manufactured, for exhibition at the St. Louis Fair, a cabinet, which is remarkable in that it contains the principal kinds of wood grown in Arkansas—ash, beech, bois d'arc, cherry, cedar, cypress, gum, holly, hickory, oak, poplar, sassafras, yellow pine and walnut. The cabinet is highly polished, and is really beautiful, and shows how rich in timber Arkansas is. The collection of minerals at the office of the Iron Mountain road attracted attention.

At 9 p. m. the citizens of Little Rock gave a grand complimentary banquet to the excursionists at Concordia Hall. The stars and stripes decorated the hall, appropriate mottoes and pictures were on the walls, the Little Rock Cornet Band furnished the music, the ladies furnished the bouquets, which, with the well-furnished tables, presented an attractive look. After supper Hon. J. M. Loughborough acted as chairman, and Gen. R. C. Newton delivered in a handsome way the address of welcome, after which toasts and speeches were in order until a late hour. With high appreciation of the kindness and nobility of the citizens of Little Rock, we returned to our berths in Pullman's cars, and during the night traveled 43 miles southwest to Malvern, where breakfast was provided at the Morse and Nichols Hotels.

## MALVERN

is the point where travelers leave the railroad for Hot Springs, a distance of 22 miles. A narrow-gauge railroad is being built from Malvern to Hot Springs by Joseph Reynolds, Esq., to cost, with rolling stock, about \$325,000. Through the courtesy of Major G. P. C. Rumbough, chief engineer, we were taken out on the track eight miles, and there met a caravan of stages, hacks and other vehicles, which conveyed us to

## HOT SPRINGS,

where we arrived at 3 p. m., and were assigned to the different hotels, at which we were royally entertained. A bath before dinner was most enjoyable. There is a peculiar pleasure from bathing in and drinking the Hot Springs water. With

Col. Elon G. Smith as pilot, we visited the various springs on the mountain sides, and were impressed with their value as agencies to help poor suffering humanity. In the evening, at the Arlington House, a grand reception was given to the excursionists, Col. Elon G. Smith being chairman. Col. John M. Harrell gave the address of welcome, which was responded to by Gen. Pierce. A large number of the ladies and gentlemen of Hot Springs were present on this occasion, and added much to the enjoyment of the evening until a late hour.

Hot Springs contains about 4,000 inhabitants. The population has doubled within two years. The town is nestled among the hills, which rise to the height of near 600 feet. There is a horse-railroad one and three-quarter miles long, which traverses the principal street in the valley. Houses extend some two and a half miles up and down the valley. Some 15,000 to 20,000 visitors come to Hot Springs during the year, a large number of them sick people. The principal hotels are the Arlington House, Hot Springs House and Grand Central Hotel, where board can be obtained at from \$50 to \$90 per month. There are some 15 smaller hotels, where board is from \$25 to \$40 a month. There are some 15 or 20 physicians, some of them eminent practitioners. The waters are valuable for skin diseases, paralysis, rheumatism, neuralgia, gout, etc. Wonderful cures are continually reported, and, from what we heard and saw, we believe the accounts are not exaggerated. These springs, some 57 in number, range in temperature from 90 to 150 degrees Fahr. Those troubled with dropsy and diseases of the lungs, heart and brain cannot expect relief.

I was glad to find a Baptist church at Hot Springs. It is some 35 years old, with a present membership of 24. There are many more Baptists in the valley, and an effort is being made to reorganize, call a pastor, and establish a flourishing church. It was pleasant to find Col. Elon G. Smith (a member of Dr. Burlingham's church in St. Louis) hearty in his efforts to forward the movement.

Bidding adieu to Hot Springs, and with high appreciation of the hospitable reception given by the citizens, we started early in the morning, and by stage and the narrow-gauge road reached Malvern in the afternoon.

The visitor and poor invalid will rejoice when the railroad is completed from Malvern, for it seems almost a miracle that some of them survive the stage ride over the rough and dangerous road to the springs. It is expected that the cars will be running about 16 miles from Malvern by November 1, and by January 1, or before, be completed to Hot Springs.

#### AN ACCIDENT

happened to one of the stages while descending a hill. The brake snapped, and the heavily loaded vehicle ran against the wheel-horses, they against the leaders. The runaway passed one coach safely and came upon the next, in which I with eight others were seated. We were expecting to be dashed into by the furious team behind, but as they struck our coach one of the leaders ran his fore-foot between the spokes and was thrown to the ground, his hoof being severed from

the limb. A pistol-shot soon put an end to his misery. This sudden stoppage probably saved our lives. There was only slight injury sustained by the passengers, thanks to Him who rules on high and suffers not a sparrow to fall without his notice.

From Malvern we were taken by our train 22 miles to

#### ARKADELPHIA,

the county seat of Clark county. Here a novelty awaited us, the citizens providing a barbecue. They had roasted parts of three beeves, six sheep and four or five shoats, with sweet potatoes, and 500 pounds of flour baked into bread. A long table was arranged in a grove, and the solid food was eaten with a relish. After this a large number of the citizens joined the excursionists and visited the cotton fields a few miles below. It was six o'clock, and the time to see the negroes carrying their baskets of cotton to the cotton pens to be weighed. Negroes earn 75 cents per 100 pounds picking cotton, and board themselves, or 50 cents per 100 including their board and lodging. They pick from 100 to 300 or 400 pounds per day. Cotton yields from a bale to a bale and a half per acre, and is worth from \$60 to \$75 per bale. To many of us it was the first time we had rambled in a cotton-field. The black lands are rich in this section, and very productive in corn as well as cotton; fruits grow abundantly—grapes as fine as in Switzerland; vegetables, sweet and Irish potatoes grow to an immense size.

It was on the programme to travel 80 miles further to Texarkana, on the Texas line, and the terminus of the St. Louis, Little Rock & Southern Railway, but being behind time about three hours prevented it, so we returned to Arkadelphia after dark, and a public reception was tendered at the Reames House, Judge H. B. Stewart being president. Col. Goulding gave the address of welcome. Toasts and speeches were again the order of the evening, which revealed a vast amount of good feeling, and the desire was expressed that this visit should redound to the benefit of the two sections of the country represented.

Arkansas has much to invite the immigrant—has vast natural resources where it is easy to acquire wealth. The lands compare favorably with any, and only require labor and skill to develop them.

Col. Thompson said the soil in Clark county challenges the investigation of the world, and complimented Col. Loughborough and Col. T. B. Mills, who have invited attention to the same.

Gen. Bishop, of Little Rock, referred to ten years ago when many present were upon opposite sides in the war. Now how changed! Strife has passed away; we are at peace; we want immigration, and we look in the main for immigration which is American in its character. There are grand opportunities here in the manufacturing line.

Judge Stewart spoke of the desire for reconciliation. The people of Arkansas are tired of strife, are satisfied with the government as it exists, and respect the laws. There is no cause for strife or sectional feeling—we are a band of brethren.

Gen. McMillan spoke of the richness of the Valley of the Washita, of apples weighing a pound and a half, which beat the apples of the Garden of Eden, and the Washita grapes, which had been transplanted to France. He said, "God Almighty had done everything for us, and we are so lazy—that's what's the matter." "But," said he, "tell your people we are improving—we are all one. God has desired it; we are one, and we will be one."

The hearty welcome and kind sentiments expressed were responded to by Sidney Thomas, of Chicago, Mr. Robinson, of Fort Wayne, Ind., and Rev. W. A. Clark, of Elkhart, Ind.

After remarks by Col. Loughborough, at a rather late hour the meeting adjourned. The night was passed in our sleeping-coaches, and the morning of Saturday found us again at Little Rock. On the way we were amused with a band of darkies dancing round a log fire, to the music of the banjo.

#### AT LITTLE ROCK

the excursionists separated for the day—some accepting an invitation to visit the country along the Fort Smith road, and others going on the Memphis & Little Rock road. After breakfast I joined the party going out on the

#### MEMPHIS & LITTLE ROCK RAILROAD.

This road is 135 miles from Little Rock to Memphis, and is the oldest road in the State. It traverses in part a prairie country. We crossed Long Prairie, where land can be had at \$1.50 to \$3.00 per acre, and stopped at Lonoke, the county seat of Lonoke county. About 8,000 bales of cotton were shipped from this point this year. Five miles away are the rich woods, said to be the finest cotton lands in the State.

At Lonoke is a Baptist church of 50 members, Rev. J. P. Eagle, pastor. One of the members, H. C. Hinton, joined the train, and gave much information. There is a college at Lonoke, of which Prof. E. C. Brinkley is President.

At Carlisle, in Prairie county, further on, we were met by Ex-Gov. O. A. Hadley, Samuel McCormick, Esq., and others, who took us to a store near by, where had been gathered the products of the county, principally from the nursery of John D. Morrow & Sons, said to be the largest in the State. The exhibition of fruits, etc., was very fine; one pear weighed two pounds three ounces. We were then taken to see a cotton gin in operation, which was a great novelty to some of us.

At Prairie Center we were shown a Dederick Perpetual Baling Press, driven by steam power. Baled hay is evidently largely exported from this section. At Duvall's Bluff the road crosses White river. The "Surrounded Hills" country is a fine cotton and corn region. It was said that cotton this year had grown too luxuriantly, has not balled sufficiently. The negroes, as a class, are doing better than was expected. We are told they are credited as far as a white man. At Brinkley, 65 miles from Little Rock, is a large steam saw-mill, owned by Messrs. Gunn & Black. They supply lumber to Memphis and the region round

about. Here we were informed that there were for sale 24,000 acres of land in a body at \$1 per acre; one-third prairie land, rest timbered.

#### FORREST CITY,

county seat of St. Francis county, 40 miles from Memphis, and 95 miles from Little Rock, was the objective point of the day's excursion. Here preparations were made by the citizens to receive our party. We were marched to the public hall, and Mayor Pope welcomed us heartily, and offered the hospitalities of the city. After dinner at the different hotels and residences, an opportunity was offered to visit the farms around the city. To Dr. J. B. Cummings I am indebted for a buggy ride, which gave an opportunity to notice the cotton and corn fields and fruit orchards. At Forrest City the St. Francis County Immigration Society, of Arkansas, has its headquarters. It offers to emigrants seeking homes, information and assistance in procuring the same in this county on the best terms. The lands are productive, timber good, climate mild, and nearly all the products of the North and South are profitably raised.

The citizens of Forrest City will long be remembered for their kindness and hospitality. Our train returned to Little Rock in the evening, and at a late hour those who had parted in the morning met again at our Pullman traveling home and started for St. Louis.

Those who had gone on the Fort Smith road reported a grand time and hearty reception by the residents of that region, abounding in minerals, and producing the semi-anthracite coal of Arkansas, which is having a large sale, and is used in St. Louis.

A preparatory school was commenced in January, 1872, Miss Mattie Briggs being the first teacher, after which Prof. Leroy Bates rendered most valuable service by his ability and devotion to the interests of the institution. After Professor Bates, Professor and Mrs. M. H. Copeland taught for two terms, until June, 1875. Since then an advanced movement has been inaugurated. The college building, which had been located half a mile away, has been moved to a site of five and a half acres, in the centre of the town, and enlarged. The main part of the reconstructed building is 72 by 40 feet, with an addition on the east side of 20 by 20 feet. It is two stories high, with a bell-tower on the west side. The first story is built of stone. It is heated by a furnace, and a green-house is arranged for the south side 30 by 7 feet. The building, when completed, is expected to be free from debt. The seats and desks are of the best kind—made at Sterling, Ill.

The Baptist church and Sabbath-school will be accommodated in this building. The campus-ground, which has a growth of fine oak, black gum and other trees, will, when contemplated improvements are completed, present a very attractive appearance.

The opening of the term this month—October, 1875—will commence a new era in the history of the institution. A full faculty has been organized, with Rev. Benjamin Thomas, D. D., President; Franklin A. Slater, B. S., Professor



of Mathematics, Philosophy and Civil Engineering; Henry S. Reynolds, Professor of Chemistry and Natural History; Mrs. M. J. Green, Intermediate Teacher; Mrs. F. A. Reynolds, Instructor in Elementary Branches; Mrs. Adela J. Thomas, D. M., Teacher of Instrumental and Vocal Music; C. C. Smith, Practical Horticulturist; Hon. T. C. Humphry, M. D., Lecturer on Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene.

All are Baptists except one. Professor Slater is a graduate of Denison University, Ohio, and Professor and Mrs. Reynolds, of the Industrial University, Illinois. The prospect is that the institution will be liberally patronized. Dr. Thomas has his heart and soul engaged in the work, and expects, with the blessing of God and the co-operation of his brethren, to see the institution develop into that which its name implies.

The charter provides that the President and a majority of Trustees shall always be Baptists. The sale of intoxicating liquors, gambling, etc., are prohibited within three miles of the college.

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention, at its last session in Arkadelphia, passed enthusiastic resolutions indorsing the Judson University. A. T. James is Recording Secretary; P. L. Barker, Corresponding Secretary; and R. C. Browning, Treasurer. The Board of Trustees is composed of nineteen members. Success, we say, to Judson University.

On Sunday I had the pleasure of meeting with the Baptist church. Dr. Thomas preached in the morning and Rev. J. Bishop in the afternoon. Bro. Bishop is from Fulton county, Indiana, near Rochester, has been here two years, and is well pleased—"perfectly delighted," as he expressed it. He has 80 acres of land two and a half miles north of Judsonia. Bro. Thomas and I dined at his house, and feasted on the products of his farm—sweet potatoes, peaches, honey, plum jelly, preserves, etc. White county is regarded as one of the most desirable in the State for settlers. It is the home of the peach, which is a sure crop, and the native country of the bee. Fruits of all kinds are plentiful.

Mr. Bishop raises on his farm sweet potatoes, 75 bushels and upwards to the acre, which sell at 75 cents; peanuts, 75 bushels to the acre, which sell at \$1; peaches, stock peas, wheat, rye, barley, corn, broom-corn, hay, cotton, onions, turnips, etc. The upland soil in this county is clay mixed with sand, the bottom-land is loam mixed with sand. There is an inexhaustible supply of flat building stone easily obtained near Judsonia, and good farms and families around. Prof. C. C. Smith has the nucleus of a nursery about one and a half miles north of Judsonia, which I was pleased to visit.

Searcy, the county seat of White county, four miles from Judsonia, contains 1,400 people. I was sorry not to be able to go there and see brethren Boone and Espy, the publishers of the *Western Baptist*. Arkansas, with its 35,000 Baptists, and a large number of colored Baptists, ought to sustain a good paper.

Bidding adieu to Judsonia, and Bro. A. T. James and wife, who had kindly entertained me, I, with Bro. Thomas, returned to Little Rock for a few hours, and learned somewhat of the Baptist church, which has forty members. They

have a brick house, costing about \$10,000. Rev. J. W. Turner has lately become their pastor, and is encouraged in his work.

I visited the office of the enterprising firm of T. B. Mills & Co., in Little Rock, publishers of the *Spirit of Arkansas*, which has a monthly circulation of 30,000 copies. They give special attention to the sale of lands, and invite purchases for the timber and prairie lands of the State, the stock, wheat, corn and fruit lands, the pine and oak lands, the cotton, sugar, grape, coal and mineral lands.

To the enterprise of Mr. Mills, as well as Mr. Loughborough, is largely due the success of the Editorial Excursion to Arkansas. There will be many pleasant recollections of the visit, and we hope the result will prove favorable to the State. It should be mentioned that the presence of Hon. H. J. Shirk, of Peru, Indiana, and Col. Logan H. Roots, of Little Rock, with others, added much to the pleasure of the trip from the start at St. Louis.

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### FROM THE "DECATUR REPUBLICAN."

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J. R. MOSSER, EDITOR.

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It has become the fashion with railroad companies of late, and more particularly with such railroad companies as have land to dispose of, to organize excursion parties for the entertainment of newspaper men, with a view of thereby placing their advantages more conspicuously before the public. These excursions have proven mutually beneficial to all parties, inasmuch as they afford the journalistic fraternity an opportunity of enjoying a pleasant season of recreation, and the accounts of the trip as written up by them furnish the railroad companies with a *quid pro quo* that amply repays them for all their outlay.

Following the example of other companies, the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railway Company, through its Land Commissioner, Hon. J. M. Loughborough, recently extended an invitation to a number of newspaper editors throughout the Northwest to participate in an excursion over the line of its road. In this invitation the company was joined by Messrs. T. B. Mills & Co., publishers of the *Spirit of Arkansas*, and heavy dealers in real estate at Little Rock. In response to this invitation some eighty members of the press assembled in St. Louis on the afternoon of the 28th of September, to participate in the excursion. The party included representatives of the press from the States of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, and Kentucky. A train of Pullman cars had been provided, and at nine o'clock

P. M. the expedition got under way. Morning found us just across the Missouri State line, and after a good breakfast at Walnut Ridge the train was off again through the swamps of Northern Arkansas.

Early in the afternoon the party arrived at Little Rock, which was found to be a thriving, beautiful city of over 20,000 inhabitants, every one of whom seemed bent on doing everything possible for the entertainment of their visitors. A ride about the city and a reception and banquet in the evening completed the ceremonial part of the entertainment, and some time after midnight the excursionists left for Hot Springs.

Malvern, an embryo city in the woods, is the nearest station to Hot Springs, from which it is distant about 26 miles. A narrow-gauge railroad is in process of construction between Malvern and the springs, some eight miles of which are completed. A trip over these eight miles in flat cars was really one of the most interesting features of the trip, and formed a pleasing contrast to the horrors of the other 18 miles of staging. Of the visit to the springs it is not necessary to say much, for the peculiarities and wonders of that mountain village, where invalids from every civilized nation congregate to seek health, have been heralded in every language which boasts a newspaper. Suffice it to say that every facility was afforded the party for seeing the remarkable features which have given to Hot Springs such a world-wide reputation. The excursionists were afforded an opportunity of washing the dust of travel from their persons in the bath-houses of the village, and all took occasion to quaff a goblet or two of the wonderful hot water, which is the principal beverage of the people there. A visit was also made to the famous locality known as "Ral City," which is a portion of the mountain given up to such invalids as are too poor to pay for accommodations at the hotels, and many of whom are too loathsome in their putridity to be fit for civilized association. Here they live in all sorts of hovels, and the celebrated "Ral Hole," in which they bathe, is frequently packed full of festering humanity, who mingle together on terms of most democratic equality, without regard to age, sex, color or previous condition. The equalizing influence of the magic "ral" places all on a level—and a mighty low-down level it is, too.

Returning to Malvern, the excursionists—thankful to be again in a region where the scream of a locomotive is heard—re-embarked on the Iron Mountain road, and after a delightful ride of an hour landed at Arkadelphia, which is handsomely located on the Ouachita river. Here a barbecue had been prepared for the solace of the true inwardness that had been aroused by the long and tedious journey from Hot Springs. After the conclusion of the feast, and being reinforced by a score or more of Arkadelphians, the party again entered the cars and journeyed down the road a few miles to some immense cotton-fields, where all could see the process of picking the fleecy crop which forms so large a share of the industry of Arkansas.

Morning found the excursionists again at Little Rock, where the party was divided into two sections, one division going eastward, on the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad, and the other westward on the railroad leading to Fort Smith. The writer preferred to remain in Little Rock, and, therefore, did not see what

those who made these trips represent as the finest agricultural portions of the State. The train left Little Rock on the return trip northward at a late hour Saturday night, arriving in St. Louis soon after dark on Sunday evening.

It would not be proper to dismiss the subject of the excursion without a word or two with reference to the gentlemen to whom the representative of the *Republican* is indebted for numerous courtesies. The railroad officials, assisted by the citizens of the various places visited, made every effort to entertain the party, and show to their guests the advantages of their hitherto unknown State. To Major W. J. Murphy, of Little Rock, the writer is especially indebted for numberless kindnesses, and for attentions which will not soon be forgotten. Also to Mr. W. S. Davis, of the same city, whose labors for the comfort of the whole party were indefatigable.

#### IMPRESSIONS.

The State of Arkansas is, to the outside world, almost an unknown region. Admitted into the Union in 1836, with a population of 52,240, it only numbered within its borders 484,471 inhabitants in 1870. Its progress, as will be seen by these figures, has been remarkably slow, in spite of its healthful location. The tide of emigration has passed it by and sought other lands to the north and northwest of its borders. It would be foreign to the objects of this article to discuss the causes which have kept Arkansas in the background, the purpose being merely to speak of the advantages it offers to the emigrant.

To the man who desires to secure a cheap homestead, Arkansas offers many advantages. It has a diversified soil, upon which nearly all the productions of the temperate zone can be raised. While its bottom-lands are peculiarly adapted to the cultivation of the cotton plant, they will also yield rich crops of corn, samples of which were shown to the excursion party that would have been no discredit to Illinois. On the uplands wheat of the best quality is grown, and though the cultivation of this and other cereals has been neglected in a great measure, because of the almost insane desire to grow cotton, experience has shown that the diversity of crops which has been so profitable in the North would be just as beneficial in Arkansas. Oats, also, seem peculiarly adapted to the soil, and the specimens shown were such as would delight the heart of an Illinois farmer—especially this year. No attention has been paid to the raising of blue grass, though it is said to flourish well. Timothy and millet grow to mammoth size, and the castor-bean, in its wild state, reaches almost to the proportions of a sapling. Fruits of all kinds are produced with a degree of certainty unknown in Northern climes, and the specimens on exhibition were of a kind that would make the mouth of an anchorite water. Peaches, pears, apples, figs and other fruits grow in abundance, while the hills and mountains produce grapes of the very first quality. There is no doubt as to the fertility of the soil.

The native woods of Arkansas embrace a large variety, adapted to all the wants of man. Cypress, poplar, yellow pine, walnut, ash, linn and other useful varieties abound in endless quantity, and the trees grow to a size which fully attest the fertility of the soil. The lumber interests of the State must soon

come into prominence, and manufacturing grow into a wonderful industry. At present there are only a few saw and planing mills, but the manufacture of furniture and other necessary products of lumber will soon follow. There is no furniture factory in the State, and the building of one at Little Rock could not fail to be a profitable investment. The same might be said of other industries of a similar character.

The mineral wealth of Arkansas is almost unlimited, and embraces deposits of iron, coal, lead, copper, zinc, tin, silver, manganese and other ores. Besides these are quarries of the best of building stone, slate, gypsum, limestone, marble, whetstone rock, etc. There are also vast deposits of ochres and paint-earths, white sand for glass-making, together with nitre caves, saline springs, etc.

Of the unoccupied lands in the State, the United States Government still owns about eight million acres, all of which is subject to homestead entry. The State of Arkansas has something over a million of acres, besides two and a half millions of unconfirmed swamp land which will finally be in her possession. The swamp lands are sold at two dollars per acre, cash. The forfeited lands are disposed of on payment of the taxes due, or are *donated to actual settlers*. Every head of a family is entitled to 160 acres, and to an additional 160 acres for his wife and each of his minor children. The fees to be paid on application for these lands amount to \$2.50 on each 160 acres. Of the railroad lands in the State the Cairo & Fulton Railroad (now the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern) owns nearly two million acres, which are offered in forty-acre tracts, at low rates and on reasonable terms.

In conclusion, it is only speaking the truth to say that Arkansas is a State of great possibilities; that it has a healthful climate, a fertile soil, and an order-loving people; that its great needs are industry and enterprise; and that with a liberal infusion of these two commodities it will not be long lingering behind its sisters in the march of progress. One of the most distinguished citizens of the State said to the writer: "We want your people to come down here and show us how to make a minute available." He could not have better expressed the great need of Arkansas in an hour's speech.

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## FROM THE "GIRARD REVIEW."

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HENRY E. EVARTS, CORRESPONDENT.

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Our excursionists took the cars at the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railway depot at St. Louis at nine o'clock P. M. Tuesday, Sept. 28. We reached Moark, on the State line, about daybreak the 29th. When we arrived at Walnut Ridge we found an excellent breakfast prepared for us, to which we all did ample

justice. At this station we had the honor of interviewing one of the genuine natives of this country, consisting of a huge black bear that was kept chained near the hotel, and was caught when a cub in the timber surrounding this place, in which great numbers of them can be found.

The country from Moark to Grande Glaise, where the railroad crosses White river, is perfectly level timber land, consisting of white oak, red oak, walnut, hickory, ash, gum, sassafras and cypress, with an undergrowth of persimmon, pawpaw, vines and cane. The soil is a gray sandy loam, and very productive under the proper mode of cultivation, corn and cotton growing luxuriantly, and the various cereals do well; all kinds of vegetables are raised with very little trouble; fruits of all kinds raised in the North grow here to perfection when planted. This country is also well adapted to stock-raising, cattle living the year round in the bottoms and cane-brakes without extra feed; hogs also are raised and fattened on the mast; sheep do well, but require protection from wild animals. There is very little of this country under cultivation as yet. This land, the unimproved, is worth from \$1 to \$2 per acre; improved, from \$5 to \$8, according to improvements and distance from stations. At Newport, on the White river, six miles from where the railroad crosses, is a large steam saw-mill engaged in working up the various timbers of this country, whence they are shipped to St. Louis.

Our train stopped at Newport 20 minutes, during which time our excursionists were busy in obtaining all the interesting items relative to this country and its productions. After crossing White river the country changes its aspect; from there to the Arkansas river it is a hilly, rolling, and in places rising into a mountainous country, densely covered with timber, consisting of oak, ash, hickory, maple, pine and walnut. This country, excepting in the creek bottoms, is not so well adapted to cultivation as the country east of White river, it being very stony and hard to plow. Fair crops of corn, wheat and oats are raised, but the soil is not deep enough for cotton, it being a red, sandy clay intermixed with gravel, and resting on a red sandstone formation. This country is well adapted to the raising of cattle and sheep, the hills producing fine grasses and the creeks supplying good clear water, being mostly fed by springs. Fruits succeed in this country almost beyond comprehension, such as apples, peaches, pears, plums, grapes, cherries and small fruits, and berries of all kinds attain a size and flavor unsurpassed in any other country.

At Judsonia our train stopped for 30 minutes in order to give our editors a chance to glean some items of interest. Judsonia is about 50 miles northeast of Little Rock. It contains a university embracing various branches of study and conferring all regular degrees. It is settled by an enterprising community, distinguished for intelligence and morality. There is not a saloon in the place. Throughout this country unimproved lands can be bought for from \$2 to \$3 per acre; improved for \$4 to \$6 per acre, according to distance from station and state of improvements. In this part of Arkansas it is very healthy, the climate being mild and pleasant during the winter months; cattle require but very little feeding during the year. The country is but partially settled as yet, but

emigrants are beginning to come to this country, a great many of whom are from Ohio and Illinois.

Our train arrived at Little Rock about three o'clock P. M., and was welcomed by an immense concourse of people, and music by the Cornet Band of Little Rock. Hacks and carriages were in readiness to convey the party to the residences of the various citizens who were to entertain the various members of our party. Your correspondent became the guest of Capt. John H. Cherry, at his residence on Capitol Hill, and was very agreeably entertained by Capt. Cherry and his wife, a very intelligent and accomplished lady, formerly of Springfield, Illinois.

After partaking of an excellent dinner, I entered the carriage with my host, and we visited the various places of interest in and around Little Rock; also the Exhibition Hall of the Fort Smith Railroad Land Office, where I saw some of the finest collections of agricultural and pomological productions I ever saw in my life. There was one pear on exhibition weighing 27 ounces, also an apple weighing 22 ounces; a single specimen of the Tonqua cucumber weighing 57 pounds, and measuring four feet in length; pumpkins large as flour barrels; cornstalks 17 to 19 feet in height, with ears 12 to 15 inches in length; specimens of wheat, oats, rye, millet, cotton and various kinds of grasses that surpassed anything I ever saw; also the various collections of native woods on exhibition, the various vegetable and mineral productions, all of them the productions of Arkansas. Taken altogether, the collections go to show the natural resources of the State, and what vast wealth lies undeveloped, which only requires Northern capital and energy to make her one of the leading States of the Union.

After leaving the exhibition rooms I repaired to Concordia Hall, where had assembled all the members of our party to partake of the complimentary banquet prepared by the citizens of Little Rock in honor of our coming. The banquet proved a decided success in every particular. At 9.20 the editors were escorted in and seated, then followed the invited guests. Then the feasting began. And here let me not forget to mention the excellent music furnished by the Cornet Band, consisting of twelve pieces, and who enlivened the occasion by soul-stirring music at intervals during the entertainment. The meeting was called to order by Hon. J. M. Loughborough. Gen. R. C. Newton delivered the welcome address in an earnest and heartfelt manner; then followed toasts and responses, accompanied by the sounds of feasting, merry-making, the popping of champagne corks and the clinking of glasses, which was kept up until a very late hour, and the entertainment assumed an aspect of decidedly convivial character. Our excursionists did full justice to the hospitalities of the occasion, from the way they stowed away the good things, both liquid and solid. I never before could fully understand the unlimited capacity of a man's stomach, especially an editor's. When on the train, just before arriving at Little Rock, a vote was taken, and a majority of the party were in favor of specie basis; but at the feast their actions all proved them to be in favor of expansion, even at the imminent danger of their waistcoat buttons. Our entertainment did not close until one A. M.

At two o'clock we retired to the sleepers and departed for Malvern, and our party were all asleep when we reached there. In the morning we took breakfast at the Morse House, after which we took the cars on the narrow-gauge road from Malvern to Hot Springs. Ten miles from Malvern, as far as the road is completed, we found stages waiting to convey us to Hot Springs, a distance of eighteen miles, over a very rough broken country, covered with heavy timber consisting of oak, hickory, pine, walnut, chestnut, ash, hackberry, gum, catalpa, sycamore, lime and dog-wood. The country seems quite productive, considering its rough character and rocky soil; corn, wheat, cotton and other crops seem to do well in the valleys and on the hill-slopes; there are in different sections throughout this locality, valuable quarries of stone, making the finest hones and oil-stones in the world, also rich mines of nickel, vast beds of magnetic ore or lodestone; also traces of gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc have been found here, specimens of which were on exhibition at Little Rock. Land in this vicinity mostly belongs to the Government and is only open to homestead settlers, though there are some tracts belonging to private parties, which can be bought very cheap. We arrived at the city of Hot Springs about one o'clock and repaired to the different hotels to dinner, after which we visited the various objects of interests in which this remarkable region abounds, the most notable of which are the hot springs, of which there are fifty-seven, all issuing from Hot Spring Mountain, fifty to one hundred feet above the level of the valley. The temperature of the springs varies from 95 to 150 degrees Fahrenheit; the waters are said to possess great curative properties for all rheumatic, nervous and cutaneous diseases. The city contains a resident population of about 2,000, and there is always a transient population of as many more. At this place an immense amount of trade is carried on, there being over one hundred business houses in the city besides the hotels, which comprise nearly one-half the houses, and the trade bids fair to be doubled when the railroad is completed from Malvern to Hot Springs. The city consists of a single street built on either side of hot spring, and on each side is built the blocks of buildings consisting entirely of wooden houses, not a brick building being found in the place, owing to the fact that the title to the land is uncertain, and any person having the means and inclination to do so could build on any vacant spot of ground, provided he had the courage and disposition to maintain his position by force of arms. The land is now in litigation and will be decided next session of the United States Supreme Court. It appears that in 1812, four sections of the land containing the springs was reserved by the Government as an Indian reservation, and with a view to establishing a United States hospital, but since then some parties claim to have acquired a title by purchase from the Government, though they so far have not been able to establish their claims. Among the claimants is ex-Gov. Rector, of Little Rock.

In company with some of the members of our party I visited the park at the north end of the city, and enjoyed the novel spectacle of a fight between a bear and two dogs, which, however, was no great sight after all, as both bear and dogs confined themselves to a skirmish at long range, and did not seem at all



inclined to pitch in, which, by the way, seems to be characteristic of all kinds of Arkansas warfare, from bears and dogs to human beings. After the close of this bloodless engagement, I returned to the Hot Springs hotel bathing-houses, where I enjoyed the luxury of a good bath, and can highly recommend it as possessing remarkable refreshing power, and being very efficient in removing the dust of toil and travel. At nine o'clock a formal reception was given the party at the Arlington House. The welcome address was delivered by Col. John M. Harrell, after which a grand hop was given in the hall, which was kept up until well into the small hours of the morning. About eighty ladies were in attendance, and the brilliancy of their complexions, sparkling of their eyes, and the grace and agility of their movements gave ample evidence of the healthful and exhilarating effects produced by the daily use and consumption of the waters of the springs.

During the progress of the hop our excursionists received frequent invitations to go up stairs and smile over some of the finest native wines I ever tasted; there were also champagne and port, and I can truly say that when the citizens offered us such cordial invitations there were very few that had the strength of will or the inclination to refuse.

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## FROM THE "SHELDON ENTERPRISE."

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D. J. EASTMAN, EDITOR.

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Through the kindness of Hon. J. M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railway, and Col. T. B. Mills & Co., of Little Rock, publishers of the *Spirit of Arkansas*, and largely interested in the sale of lands throughout the State of Arkansas, we received invitation to join in an editorial excursion, to start from St. Louis Tuesday night, September 28th, and travel over various portions of the State of Arkansas.

### OBJECT OF THE EXCURSION.

There had been such wide-spread and exaggerated reports of civil and political dissensions among the people of the State, together with representations that Arkansas was made up of a succession of mountains, hills, cypress swamps, barren wastes, etc., that it was thought best by those interested in the development of the vast resources of this commonwealth, to organize an excursion of editors, representing a large number of the leading papers of the Northwest, and let them behold the surface of the country, view their splendid crops, examine into the

character of their soil, talk with, and, to a certain extent, become acquainted with the habits and customs of the people, and upon their return give their readers in the North facts as they learned them.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE EXCURSION.

At nine o'clock P. M. September 28th, about 75 editors, representing different sections of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Iowa and Kansas, assembled at the Iron Mountain depot, corner of Main and Plum streets, St. Louis, where a special train, consisting of one engine, four elegant Pullman sleeping cars, one passenger coach and a baggage car, was in waiting. On board we were invited, and on we went, to be at once drawn forward at a speed of 20 miles per hour among the hills and mountains of Southeast Missouri. Daylight the next morning found us at Moark, a thriving little village in Arkansas, and terminus of the first division of the road. Our stay here was short, and consequently we saw but little of the town. Two hours later and we reached Walnut Ridge, in Lawrence county, where the train came to a stand, and we were invited to refresh the inner man with the products of Arkansas. The breakfast, which was good, was administered by the very handsome young ladies of the village and much relished by all of the party. The upland soil of Lawrence county is said to be well adapted to the growth of fruit and the cereals. The timber on the highlands consists of oak, ash, hickory and persimmon. This county abounds in rich mines of lead and zinc, which offer splendid opportunities for capitalists to invest in mining enterprises.

We arrived at Newport about 10 o'clock A. M., when the train halted, and we had an opportunity to inspect a large quantity of baled cotton ready for shipping. Newport is in Jackson county, on the White river, where the surface of the country is very level and covered with heavy timber. Some of the land in this county has been cultivated for the last fifty years and still produces excellent crops of cotton and corn.

We passed through Judsonia about one o'clock P. M., and here found quite a thriving and enterprising village. Judsonia, in White county, is 53 miles northwest of Little Rock, and is noted for moral proclivities, there not being a saloon in the place. Judson University, under Baptist control, is located here, and is one of the leading institutions of learning in the State. It was chartered in 1871, and under the guidance of the Rev. Benj. Thomas, assisted by an able corps of teachers, is making its power felt throughout the land. White county has 26 school-houses, 78 churches and nine post-offices. The land in this county is somewhat undulating and covered with timber. The soil is said to be very fertile; aside from cotton, oats is the principal crop.

The Searcy Sulphur Springs, which are situated in White county, have gained considerable reputation as a watering-place. After leaving Judsonia we passed through several small towns and many large fields of cotton and corn. Just as we were crossing the waters of the Arkansas, our ears were greeted with the sweet strains of music, and we were at once drawn up to the depot at the city of

Little Rock, where we found ourselves in the presence of a silver cornet band and several thousand people of the city and adjacent country. After extending to our party a most cordial greeting, the citizens invited us to seats in carriages, which they had in waiting, and drove us to their various residences, where we were entertained in the most complimentary style. Thanks to Lieut. Morrison, of the 16th U. S. Infantry, Thomas Lafferty, a prosperous merchant of the city, Mrs. Polk, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Augspath and Mrs. Capt. Cenradt for their kind hospitality and many acts of disinterested kindness by which our sojourn in their beautiful city was made pleasant and agreeable.

After dinner we were shown through the city and saw on exhibition some of the finest specimens of vegetables and cereals we have ever seen in any State, one cucumber alone weighing 57 pounds, while their pomological display was not only good but grand. The extensive reading-room which T. B. Mills & Co. have in connection with the *Spirit of Arkansas*, is an enterprise of which the citizens should and do feel proud. About three months ago this enterprising firm commenced to fit up a public reading-room which already boasts of over 800 papers on file. On entering we called for the *Enterprise*, of Sheldon, Illinois, which was almost immediately laid upon the table before us. At night a public reception and banquet was given our party at Concordia Hall, where the best of music was provided, and every delicacy of the season spread before us. After the banquet came the speech of welcome by Gen. Robert C. Newton, and thrilling responses to a number of truly loyal and patriotic toasts. Men of every political complexion met us at Concordia Hall that night, and under the folds of five flags, each covered with stripes and stars, emblems of American liberty and independence, all alike expressed an abiding faith in our good government and the perpetuity of the unity of States. Scenes like this could not last always, and at 12 o'clock, midnight, we again boarded the train and proceeded southward. Little Rock is the capital of the State and the county seat of Pulaski county. It is situated on an elevated bluff on the south bank of the Arkansas river, and surrounded by a country considerably broken and covered with timber, save where the industrious farmer has carved out extensive farms. Being situated at such an elevation, it is naturally freed from those local diseases which attach to so many cities built upon low ground. It has a good health record. It contains a population of about 20,000, a large number of business houses, some of which do a wholesale business, several newspapers and several large manufacturing institutions. The county of Pulaski has a population of 40,000, no bonded debt, 33 school-houses and 60 churches. The uplands are well adapted to fruit culture, while the lowlands are exceedingly fertile, and produce a bale of cotton or from 50 to 75 bushels of corn per acre.

Early on Thursday morning the party was aroused from a quiet slumber by the voice of Gen. Pierce, announcing that we had arrived at Malvern, and that breakfast was in waiting. The sleepers were soon deserted, and breakfast eaten with relish. At nine o'clock we boarded a train on the narrow-gauge road leading from Malvern in the direction of Hot Springs, to which point it will be completed within a few weeks. The ride given us over the nine miles already constructed

was a delightful one. On either side were immense hills covered with the noble pine, and between these hills were seen occasional fields of corn which would rival that raised on our best Illinois soil.

On arriving at the present terminus of the road we found a delegation of citizens of Hot Springs in waiting, with conveyances to take us to Hot Springs. It would be folly to attempt a description of our journey thence to these celebrated springs; it will suffice our purpose to say that after a three hours' ride through dust and heat, over streams and mountains, through densely timbered lands and over bottoms covered with a rich acreage of corn and cotton, we arrived safely at this haven of health about one o'clock, where we were assigned to well-appointed hotels and fed and cared for in the most complimentary style. Hot Springs is situated in a valley of a spur of the Ozark mountains, 55 miles southwest of Little Rock, has a permanent population of about 3,000, with an average of about 2,000 visitors. The springs, which are the wonder of the world, are 54 in number, and are situated on the slope of the mountains, from 50 to 100 feet above the level of the valley. The temperature of the water of these springs varies from 90 to 160 deg. Fahrenheit, and they are sought by people from all parts of the globe as a cure for almost every form of disease which flesh is heir to. We rode on their street railroad and bathed in their health-giving waters that afternoon, and at night were publicly received at the hall of the Arlington Hotel. Here a reception address was delivered by Col. J. M. Harrell, editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, in which the speaker welcomed their guests from the North in eloquent language and a most cordial manner. After a few appropriate remarks by Gen. Pierce in behalf of the excursionists, a band of music was introduced, the hall cleared, and with the beautiful and attractive Southern ladies present, this band of pilgrims tripped the light fantastic till they were warned that the light of Friday morning was fast approaching; and even then some retired with seeming reluctance. Hot Springs has some of the best hotels in the State, a large number of business houses, two very enterprising daily-newspapers, and a hospitable and intelligent class of citizens. It is destined soon to be the most noted watering-place in the world. We left Hot Springs early Friday morning, and arrived at Malvern about noon. A little incident which happened on our stage route, though painful in its details, may be of interest to those of our readers who have resided in a hilly country. When descending the slope of a hill, several hundred feet in length, the brakes attached to one of the stages gave way, allowing the stage, with its precious load, to rush wildly upon the horses. The consequence was a runaway down the slope, past a dozen other stages. Through this exciting scene we were glad to note that the driver remained cool, and with a steady hand guided his frightened team past all preceding stages, without injury to any one of the party. We regret, however, that in order to save human life he was compelled to sacrifice the life of a horse. The poor animal was guided between the wheels of a stage and a fence, where he was so badly crippled that it was thought best to at once put an end to his sufferings. We arrived at Arkadelphia, 65 miles southwest of Little Rock, about three o'clock P.M., where we were met at the depot by a large number

of intelligent-looking people, who at once invited us to a grove a short distance away, where a barbecue dinner had been served up and awaited our coming. This novel feature of the excursion was much relished by the party, who manifested their appreciation of this liberal hospitality by stowing away large morsels of beef and venison. On that afternoon we visited some of those extensive plantations of cotton which abound in the fertile valley of Washita, and were satisfied that enterprise and capital alone were needed to make this one of the most prosperous valleys of the Southwest. At night speeches of welcome were delivered, and much patriotic sentiment expressed. The people of Arkadelphia express themselves as well satisfied with the results of the late war, and begged us to inform Northern people who wished to change their location, that they will receive a cordial welcome in the Washita valley. Arkadelphia, which is the county seat of Clark county, has about 1,500 inhabitants, and is a beautiful little city. When the resources of Clark county are developed, it is destined to become one of the leading cities of Southern Arkansas.

On Saturday morning we again found ourselves at Little Rock, where, after breakfasting, our party divided, a portion journeying to the West on the Fort Smith Railroad, while the remainder chose to travel to the East, and partook of the hospitality of the officers of the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad. On approaching Lonoke we saw the first prairie which we had beheld since we entered the State, and as most of our party were residents of prairie districts they were delighted with the change of scenery. For 40 or 50 miles the vision was greeted with enchanting prairies encompassed by a beautiful skirting of timber. We saw some good farms on these prairies, but learned from people residing there that they were not so productive as the timbered lands. We noticed, however, that these prairies were covered with a heavy crop of natural grasses, and were informed that farmers were securing from two to three tons of hay per acre. Lonoke is the seat of Lonoke College, with its seven professors and 150 students.

Passing through Carlisle and Duvall's Bluff, we arrived at Forrest City at three o'clock P. M., where we were again received by a delegation of citizens, and welcomed by their young Mayor in a short but eloquent address. A dinner, generously provided by the citizens, was next disposed of, after which we were conducted through the city, and were even permitted to look at some of their adjacent cotton plantations. Forrest City, in St. Francis county, is situated 45 miles west of Memphis, on the St. Francis river, near the notable Crowley's Ridge. It has a population of about 2,000, and is surrounded by a fertile body of farming land. We can truthfully say that we have never seen a better pomological display, in small collections, than was exhibited at points along the line of the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad. One Duchess pear weighed two and a quarter pounds, and apples in several instances weighing 23 ounces each were exhibited.

We returned to Little Rock at midnight, joined the party that had just returned from their trip on the Fort Smith road, and together we started for St. Louis, where we arrived at seven o'clock P. M. Sunday, October 3d. Here our party

disbanded and started for their respective homes, bearing with them most kindly feelings for Col. J. M. Loughborough and T. B. Mills & Co., who inaugurated the excursion, as well as for the generous people of the State of Arkansas who contributed their kind hospitality to make our sojourn in the State a pleasant one. And while we do not wish to advise any one to leave Iroquois county, yet we do believe that Arkansas to-day presents to those desiring homes a field where industry and enterprise will be amply rewarded. The State, as far as our observation extended, was in a quiet condition, and life and property appeared to be as secure there as in Illinois. All the citizens asked of us was to send Northern men among them to till their broad acres of uncultivated soil, develop their vast mineral resources, build up manufactories, etc., and promised them a cordial reception and liberal treatment. Arkansas may not produce as much corn or oats per acre as Illinois; she may not produce more wheat or barley, yet we were informed that nearly every year brought fair crops of all kinds of cereals, and with her corn, oats, wheat, cotton, etc., she will average well with any other State.

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### FROM THE "CENTRALIA DEMOCRAT."

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S. P. TUFTS, EDITOR.

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In response to a very courteous invitation from J. M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner of the great St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, and T. B. Mills & Co., of Little Rock, we, in company with many other knights of the quill, took seats in the specially provided Pullman palace cars of the Iron Mountain Railway on Tuesday night, September 28th, for a "bum" in Arkansas.

#### PERSONAL.

Too much cannot be written in praise of Hon. Thos. Allen, President of the road; of J. M. Loughborough, T. B. Mills & Co., and G. W. Hered, of the Land Department; of Hon. Logan H. Roots, of Little Rock (to whom we were personally indebted for many courtesies); of John Bartholomew, Superintendent, and John J. Gilliss, Passenger Agent of the El Paso Stage Company, Hot Springs; of W. D. Slack, Land Commissioner, and Theo. Hartman, General Superintendent of the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad, for their extraordinary attention at all times to the excursionists.

#### THE IRON MOUNTAIN ROUTE.

This route to Little Rock runs through a very valuable timbered country, well watered and admirably adapted to every feature of agriculture. We have not,

since the war, passed through a country that offered such abundant and varied rewards to the hands of labor. Untold wealth slumbers on and in a soil aching to have its beautiful and smiling surface interrupted by the settler's ax, mechanic arts and agricultural appliances. The lands belonging to this route exceed 1,500,000 acres, and lay in a strip thirty miles wide, running diagonally across the State of Arkansas. On this route, from Moark to Arkadelphia—the terminal Southern point of our trip—we traveled along and crossed and recrossed many large and small streams of water, clearly showing that in this especially desirable particular the lands were unusually well watered, and therefore advantageously productive and healthy, except in excessively wet seasons, wherein all countries alike suffer.

We have the inclination but not the space for details. These may be obtained in truth and abundance upon application to either of the gentlemen personally named above, and especially T. B. Mills & Co., Little Rock. The timber lands of Arkansas must, ere many years, become very valuable for their timber alone. The remarkable variety, quality and size of the trees, so near to the great markets of the West and South, cannot fail to make these lands attractive and valuable. The soil for all cereal and vegetable productions is also very fertile, except for grasses. In the latter we found this route generally deficient, and not much attention paid heretofore to their cultivation, probably because it has been and is the custom to chiefly raise cotton. In fact, the farmers of Arkansas have cotton on the brain—a disease more damaging to the development of the State than most of her people are willing to concede by practice.

#### LITTLE ROCK.

This city is beautifully located on high, rolling ground, and is the natural center for a large field of enterprise and trade; its population is estimated at from 15,000 to 20,000. Its present peace, general and unpartisan hospitality, combined with a renewed vigor and push, together with the introduction of manufacturing capital and ingenuity, will ere long shake it up and roll it on to a population of 50,000, and in time to 100,000. The citizens of Little Rock, irrespective of party, opened their doors to our excursion party with a generous and brilliant reception, and a marked and much applauded sentiment of welcome and kind regard for Northern people generally, expressed in unreserved terms by each speaker of all parties, publicly, and in private conversation at a most elegant and sumptuously prepared banquet given in honor of their Northern visitors. In a quiet way we discovered, from observation and conversation, an evident desire for peace and harmony in the future, a general satisfaction with the administration of Gov. Garland, and an overweening anxiety for the immigration of people of all classes from the North, East and West, with or without capital, who may be willing to aid with their labor and accomplishments in developing the rich and varied resources of wealth now inviting the emigrant.

#### HOT SPRINGS.

We were agreeably surprised at the substantial appearance of the hotels, business houses and private residences at this noted watering-place, remarkable for

its cures. Business activity and enterprise seemed to fill the serpentine valley in which this attractive and delightful city is located. The healing virtues of the many springs, hot and cold combined, are rapidly securing a well-deserved world-wide notoriety.

The welcome extended to our party by the citizens of Hot Springs was of that genuine and appreciative character that marks a generous and enterprising people. No pains were spared to make our visit pleasant. The proprietors of hotels, stage and coach lines, livery stables, newspapers, etc., etc. vied with each other in extending to us a gratifying welcome. We do not forget the courtesies of the Hot Springs Railroad, which is being pushed forward with energy. We were conveyed to the end of the line, eight miles, on flat cars, prepared especially for the trip, then staged it twelve miles to the Springs. We should judge from the apparent progress that the railroad would be finished to Hot Springs by, if not before, the first of January next. When the railroad is completed this beautiful little city, nestling between most wonderful mountains, with rocky, porous bases and sloping sides, pouring forth their bubbling, healing waters, all crowned with evergreens and ragged, picturesque summit edges, will attract the traveler in search of health; the business man, mineralogist, geologist, and sight-seers generally, until the city of Hot Springs will count its population by tens of thousands, and the good people there be made glad with the rich notes of progress.

We traveled many hundred miles along the railroads in Arkansas, stopping at many places on the route, where an opportunity was given us to exchange views with the people and arrive at their sentiments in reference to Northern people, Northern intelligence and Northern ways, social and political. From these private talks and the general manner of the people indiscriminately, we unhesitatingly state our belief that there is as much protection, legal and social, for strangers from anywhere, as hearty and genuine a welcome, as cheerful a God-speed in Arkansas from its citizens generally, as is to be found in any other State in the Union. The people of Arkansas have been sorely punished. Where the responsibility for the internal difficulties of the past belongs, matters not now. We saw on the Arkansan's body, in his face and that of his family, the unerring signs of an impoverished people; intestine strife and cotton crop failures were the causes. To a large degree the crop of the present year has been cultivated and harvested on scanty allowances. Thank God, it is one of the most abundant and varied crops the State has ever known. The destitution of the people has been the great moving power that has broken their affection for cotton and developed the wonderful excellencies of the soil, climate and seasons of Arkansas for the other great staples—corn, wheat, oats, millet, and all varieties of fruits and vegetables, many of the latter producing two crops. In some localities we were assured that potatoes would mature planted immediately after wheat harvest. However, Arkansas must be seen to be appreciated.

#### THE OUACHITA.

Sufficient time was not permitted us to see the rich and finely watered country through which this stream runs. Excepting the Red river country in Arkansas,



the valley of the Ouachita contains the best cotton and corn lands in the State, and the uplands are spoken of as very fine for cereals, vegetables and fruits. We were informed by an intelligent farmer residing near Arkadelphia that raising cotton was the great drawback to the country; that it was more profitable to introduce new farming implements, suited to the production of the various grains and vegetables, and give cotton the go-by; but cotton always having been the staple crop, it was hard to wean the people away from it. He hoped Northern emigrants that knew nothing about cotton would come into their country with their new ideas and new methods of agriculture, that the natives might learn by comparisons. We believe that an Illinois corn or wheat farmer would raise an average of 75 bushels of corn and 30 bushels of wheat to the acre on the same land for ten continuous years, on the bottom lands of the Ouachita that came under our observation.

#### LITTLE ROCK & FORT SMITH RAILROAD.

On our return to Little Rock from Hot Springs our party divided by choice, part going over the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad to Fort Fisher, and the remainder going over the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad to its present terminus, a few miles beyond Clarksville, a distance of some 106 miles; we were with the latter party and write the result of our observations. This road runs along the fertile valley of the Arkansas river and has the usual alternate section land grant for miles each side of the railroad. Judging from the productions of this valley as seen at the various stations, comprising cotton, corn, wheat, oats, millet, tobacco, vegetables and fruits, the soil must be very rich and productive. All we learned of the cultivation of the soil leads us to the conclusion that it is far from thorough. This soil produces with present culture from 40 to 60 bushels of corn per acre, 25 bushels of white wheat, three-quarters of a bale of cotton, from three to four tons of millet, and in this ratio for all crops; vegetables and fruits in abundance. These lands are cheap, ranging from \$2.50 to \$20 per acre, owing to the location. The climate, we were informed, was very healthy, and how so watered and undulating a country could be otherwise we fail to see. Timber is abundant, in great variety and of the best quality. One gentleman told us that he enumerated fifteen varieties on one 40-acre tract. The people on this line of road, as elsewhere in the State, are anxious to welcome the emigrant; their latch-strings hang out, and we have no doubt of the genuineness of their proffered hospitality.

#### IN GENERAL.

What we have said in relation to this State has been derived from the impressions made upon us during our trip. The details of how we were feasted and the perfectness of the ovations at all points visited while in the State, has of course made a lasting impression, but being personal to us, it is of but little consequence to our readers, only as an index of the character of the people among whom we were sojourning. Our object has been to give our readers a brief idea of Arkansas and its hospitable people. We have

been brief because we did not wish to overdo or be tiresome. If there are any of our readers who have made up their minds to emigrate Southward, we would advise them to not pass carelessly over the advantages and inducements held out by the citizens of Arkansas.

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## FROM THE "CARLINVILLE ENQUIRER."

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MILTON MCCLURE, EDITOR.

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Not long since Hon. J. M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, and T. B. Mills & Co., dealers in real estate at Little Rock, extended an invitation to some three hundred leading papers to send a representative on an excursion through Arkansas. The object of the excursion was that the representatives of the press could see for themselves something of the country, its resources, etc. Accepting the invitation of the *Enquirer* to represent it on the trip, I left Carlinville on the morning of the 28th of September for St. Louis, from which point the excursion was to start. At nine p. m. on that day the train, consisting of four Pullman sleepers, a day car and baggage car, pulled out, and we were not only wooed to the land of Morpheus, but the wheels revolved at the rate of 25 miles an hour, keeping up a fine accompaniment to the unearthly snoring of the representative of the *Chicago Standard*. On past Iron Mountain and Pilot Knob we were whirled, and stopped for breakfast at Walnut Ridge, having made 225 miles since starting. At Newport we crossed White river, and at one o'clock we reached Judsonia, where an American flag was fastened to three bales of cotton, and a banner displayed bearing the inscription: "The pen is mightier than the sword. Editors, you are welcome."

At 3.30 p. m. we reached Little Rock. Bands of music and crowds of citizens greeted us, and we were quartered upon various inhabitants of the place—it being my good fortune to find quarters at the elegant residence of Mr. Dodge, Centennial Commissioner of the State, and a prominent attorney. We were driven over the city, and all the various points of interest pointed out to us. We were welcomed at the Chamber of Commerce, where there was a fine display of the products of the country, not the least of which was a cucumber weighing 57 pounds; but they don't all grow that large, as this was a sort of family cucumber. There were fine specimens of cotton, corn, wheat, oats, rye, barley, grapes, vegetables, etc., while the display of fruit was excellent. At nine p. m. the citizens gave their guests a grand complimentary banquet, which, with the dance, lasted until the wee sma' hours. We all retired to our berths at the sleeping cars, and

some time during the early morning hours, while enjoying a season of somnolence, we were carried 43 miles to Malvern, where we found an excellent breakfast awaiting us.

Malvern is the point where travelers diverge to go to Hot Springs. A narrow-gauge railroad is being built between the two places, but upon our visit only eight miles were completed; at the end of this we were met by hacks, stage-coaches and carriages and taken to the Springs, a distance of about fourteen miles. We arrived at the Springs at three P. M., and were duly assigned to different hotels, it being my excellent fortune to be taken to the "Arlington," the leading hotel in the city, and here a grand banquet and reception was given us in the evening. Hot Springs contains about 4,000 inhabitants. The population has doubled within two years. The town is nestled among the hills, which rise to the height of near 600 feet. There is a horse railroad one and three-quarter miles long, which traverses the principal street in the valley. Houses extend some two and a half miles up and down the valley. Some 15,000 to 20,000 visitors come to Hot Springs a year, a large number of them sick people. There are some fifteen or twenty physicians, some of them eminent practitioners. The waters are valuable for skin diseases, paralysis, rheumatism, neuralgia, gout, etc. Wonderful cures are continually reported, and from what we heard and saw we believe the accounts are not exaggerated. The springs, some fifty-seven in number, range in temperature from 90 to 150 degrees Fahrenheit. Those troubled with dropsy and diseases of the lungs, heart and brain cannot expect relief.

Board, for invalids or those who are not, can be obtained at prices ranging from six to twenty-five dollars per week—according to the amount a man possesses and the amount of style he wishes to put on. The principles of charity have obtained to a reasonable degree, and quite a number of springs are inclosed for the especial benefit of the poor, where they can bathe without money and without price.

From Malvern we proceeded twenty-two miles to Arkadelphia, the county seat of Clark county. Here a novelty awaited us, the citizens having provided a barbecue. They had roasted parts of three beeves, six sheep and four or five shoats, with sweet potatoes and 500 pounds of flour baked into bread. A long table was arranged in a grove, and the solid food was eaten with a relish. After this a large number of the citizens joined the excursionists and visited the cotton-fields a few miles below. It was six o'clock, and the time to see the negroes carrying their baskets of cotton to the cotton pens, to be weighed. Negroes earn 75 cents per 100 pounds picking cotton, and board themselves, or 50 cents per hundred including their board and lodging. They pick from 100 to 400 pounds per day. Cotton yields from a bale to a bale and a half per acre, and is worth from \$60 to \$75 per bale. To many of us it was the first time we had rambed in a cotton-field. The black lands are rich in this section, and very productive in corn as well as cotton; fruits grow abundantly, grapes as fine as in Switzerland. Vegetables, the sweet and Irish potatoes, grow to an immense size. In the evening a public reception was given us at the Reames House,

where the usual round of speaking, &c., was gone through. We returned to our sleeping coaches and on Saturday morning were again at Little Rock, and reached St. Louis in time to make home on Monday morning.

The soil, as already indicated, in the country visited is very productive. All the smaller grains grow well, while crops of cotton are splendid. Fruits yield well, and there are vast opportunities for the making of fortunes. The people are tired of strife, and want peace and emigration, that their State may be developed. Land can be had cheap, and I see no reason why Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas or Texas should be preferred to this country. It is a fine country, and all that is wanted is energy, enterprise and industry to develop it.

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### FROM THE "AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL," CHICAGO.

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THOMAS S. NEWMAN, EDITOR.

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There is, perhaps, no territory of equal proportions to that known as "the South" that is blessed with so many natural advantages, and that has so many possibilities of material prosperity. We have, in common with many apiculturists of this country, often thought that grand and profitable results of bee-keeping would be reached in that section of country as soon as its true value became known and the prejudices of former education had been overcome.

Having received an invitation from the Hon. J. M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, at Little Rock, and Col. T. B. Mills & Co., of Little Rock, publishers of the *Spirit of Arkansas*, to accompany an editorial excursion through the State of Arkansas, for the purpose of seeing with our own eyes things as they were, and of conversing with its people at their homes, the publisher of the *American Bee Journal* accepted, and started on Monday, Sept. 27, for St. Louis, to join the party.

On Tuesday, at nine P. M., a special train started for the Sunny South with 150 excursionists, representing that many of the leading papers of the Northwest. The train consisted of a powerful engine trimmed with flags, four Pullman palace sleeping cars, one day car, etc., all belonging to the Iron Mountain Railroad.

After passing Moark we came to Judsonia, where a Baptist university is located. It is under the charge of the Rev. B. Thomas, M. A., and gives thorough instruction in all the useful branches of learning.

Arriving at Little Rock, the capital of the State, at 2:30 P. M. the next day, we enjoyed the hospitalities of Col. Thomas Lafferty, a whole-souled and successful dry goods merchant of that city. Here we met unexpectedly our old

friend Judson Austin, Esq., whose pleasant face and mature counsels cheered and smoothed our pathway fifteen years ago. We also made the pleasant acquaintance of scores of other gentlemen and ladies, only a few of whom we can now mention in particular for want of space. Chief among these was Gen. H. A. Pierce, who accompanied the excursion over the State, and made one of the pleasantest companions we ever had the pleasure of meeting. By the way, the General is interested in apiculture, and intends to enter more largely into the business next spring. He says that he knows of no place in the world that is so favorable to bee-keeping as Arkansas. It abounds with bloom from early in March till December; bees need never be removed from their summer stands, and prosper abundantly with but very little attention. He says that if Northern bee-keepers would come down there with their scientific and practical knowledge, they would do vastly more than "astonish the natives." The General introduced us to several other bee-men, and we enjoyed a pleasant chat with them.

In the evening the citizens of Little Rock got up a magnificent complimentary banquet at Concordia Hall, which was decorated with flags on all sides, as well as mottoes of welcome. The tables were loaded with delicacies and choice viands, and ornamented with splendid bouquets provided by the ladies. This was one of the largest and grandest banquets ever given in that city.

The guests were all Northern men, but a more cordial reception could not be given to them anywhere in the world. We were especially pleased at the marked demonstrations of the fact that the "late unpleasantness" was over, that the bone of contention was buried, that all accepted the situation, and that now a Northerner was as welcome and just as safe there as in any town or city on the continent.

Speeches and toasts followed. We have no room to report them, but will say that the address of welcome was delivered by Gen. R. C. Newton in an earnest speech. He referred to the button-hole bouquets with which the tables were so beautifully decorated, and which the guests were not slow to appropriate. He then remarked that he was pleased to have eye-witnesses in the State, that the people might be seen as they are—that their manners, habits, etc., might be observed. He wanted the visitors to come often, and come at last to stay. It pleased him to know that we had an opportunity to see the State and the products and the people. The Northwest and the Southwest were now just becoming known to each other, and he was glad to see it, and hoped it would be continued. The State had been built up by nature as an invitation for pluck, capital and enterprise, and he would say: Come and see us, come; and bring "Yankee Doodle," and "Live and die in Dixie."

After the banquet the party left for Malvern, where we breakfasted, and then went on to the celebrated Hot Springs, where another ovation occurred. The citizens' committee met the party at the terminus of the narrow-gauge railroad, over eight miles of which we passed, and escorted us to Hot Springs, where every attention and comfort was afforded us, and in the evening there was a grand reception ball at the Arlington House.

Here invalids come by hundreds to partake of the invigorating qualities of these "waters of life." Hot Springs has about 4,000 inhabitants, and is a lively

and fashionable resort. We visited Arkadelphia, and participated in a barbecue provided by the citizens, and then took a trip towards Texarkana. The train halted in a cotton-field, where pickers were busy gathering the crop. Many of our party left the cars and conversed with the colored pickers, and inspected, for the first time, one of the cotton-fields of the South.

We then returned to Little Rock, breakfasted, and then the party divided at its own pleasure. A portion, as guests of the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad, went eastward to see the country between the Arkansas and Mississippi rivers, and the other part, as guests of the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad, went west to visit the Arkansas coal-fields, which are being newly developed there; of these fields there are several, chief of which is the celebrated mine of the "Ouita Coal Company," our friend Thomas Lafferty, of Little Rock, being the managing director. He accompanied the excursion, and took the party through the mine.

We "went west," and were treated like a prince. Theo. Hartman, Esq., General Superintendent of the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad, took charge of the party, and no man could do more to make it pleasant and agreeable. Under the able management of such a superintendent, that railroad must prosper and become a power in the land. At every station the inhabitants were out in numbers, exhibiting the fruits of the soil, and tempting us with choice viands. At one of these stopping-places we saw a cucumber weighing 64 pounds, and measuring 13 by 28 inches; at another, corn 14 feet high; at another, prairie grasses seven feet high, and wheat and oats of large size; at another, stocks of Japanese peas that had produced 200 bushels to the acre. But space and time would fail us to speak of all we saw. Our advice to all seeking good bee locations is to go down and see for themselves, and then act on their best convictions.

At Little Rock the party again united, and all flew on the rails of comfort, in elegant palace cars, back to St. Louis, having enjoyed the pleasure of an excursion of five days, loaded with pleasant memories, and freighted with incidents and facts about a country which is destined to become one of the best, most congenial and profitable on this continent.

In the language of another, we would say: "The climate of the State, her immunity from cyclones, grasshoppers and other pests, the regularity of her seasons, show the adaptation of the State to agriculture. Then the advantages offered to manufacturing enterprise is palpable, with such forests and coal-fields, and raw material of every variety. The mineral wealth of the State is of such a character, and crops out so plainly, that the learning of the geologist may be almost dispensed with for practical purposes. The State government, if not all that could be desired, will certainly compare favorably with any other in the Union."

The party passed a vote of thanks to the railroads, and to Col. Loughborough, the indefatigable and earnest Land Commissioner, as well as to T. B. Mills & Co., editors of the *Spirit of Arkansas*, at Little Rock, and to many others; but want of space forbids the details. At St. Louis the party separated and repaired to their respective homes and fields of labor, to tell their readers what they had seen and heard.

## FROM THE "DECATUR TRIBUNE."

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S. S. JACK, CORRESPONDENT.

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The "situation" in Arkansas has been brought prominently before the people of the country in some of its many different phases frequently for the past two or three years. Indeed, so much has been written and said, so many theories, opinions and statements of facts have been advanced, that the world at large, and even the people of Arkansas, hardly understand it. Lately a truce has been agreed upon, and all classes have united to advance the material prosperity of the State. Whether this results from the fact that it was becoming unhealthy for political thievery, carpet-bagging and braggartism, or that there was simply nothing more to steal, and necessity compelled the truce, we will not attempt to say. Enough it is to know that peace reigns in the State, and that its motto, "*Regnant Populi*," is a verity.

In order to give to the world a better knowledge of the resources of the State of Arkansas, and the feelings and desires of its people, and, of course, to advertise the State and its lands, which is all legitimate, the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad, through their Land Commissioner, Hon. J. M. Loughborough, and the land agency of T. B. Mills & Co., of Little Rock, through their representative, T. B. Mills, organized an excursion for the representatives of the press of the Northwest, from St. Louis to Texarkana, on the Texas line, and from Little Rock to the eastern and western boundaries of the State. This invitation was accepted by about one hundred, who left St. Louis in a train of four Pullman cars on the Iron Mountain Railroad, on Tuesday evening, Sept. 20th. The party hailed from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri, besides one or two from "the Lord knows whither." The party being orderly creatures, and disposed to fortify themselves for "the work of the week" (we were to enjoy the hospitalities of the good people of the towns in which we stopped), soon had "Thomas" and the other men and brethren prepare the beds.

We had a good breakfast in the woods at Walnut Ridge, where the gentlemen of the party had the opportunity to amuse themselves by feeding, stirring up and looking at a huge black bear. The amusement was safe and innocent. The bear was tied with a chain. From thence we were hurried along through the heavily timbered lands that line the railway, over several beautiful streams, and through or near to a cypress swamp or two, stopping here and there at various stations to look at what was to be seen, till about one p. m. on Wednesday, when we arrived at Little Rock, the capital and chief city of the State of Arkansas. At the depot we were met with carriages by the good people of the city to whom

we had been assigned, who did the generous in a way you may sometimes hear tell of in Decatur, as being of the good old times, but which has not been seen for "lo, these many years." The afternoon was spent in visiting the various points of interest about the city, and the growing, blooming and ripening cotton of the rich bottoms of the Arkansas river.

In the evening a rich banquet awaited the strangers and invited guests. There were boils, roasts, fries, relishes, pastries, jellies, fruits and beverages, the latter consisting of French coffee, tea, sweet milk, iced tea and massaree. The latter was in bottles, and the corks of some of them popped when they came out. Then there were toasts, regular and volunteer; responses, studied and impromptu; there were hearty welcomes and expressions of generous good feeling; there were sparkles of wit and sleepy platitudes, and of the latter the visitors bore away the palm.

To bed at two A. M., and while seeking rest were taken south 45 miles to Malverne, where, after breakfast, we took extemporized seats on flats of the Hot Springs narrow-gauge road, for Hot Springs. Only about eight miles of this road are completed. At the end we took coaches, hacks and wagons, for Hot Springs, 18 miles. Some of the vehicles were not the best; the horses were not all richly caparisoned; it was a little warm; the roads were a little dusty, and a little hilly, and a little stony, and a little gullied, and there was now and then a fallen tree in the way, but we had the best that was to be had anywhere in all that country, and we all enjoyed it. Then we were, after five hours' riding, tired, but then at the end we had a bath awaiting us in the warm, healing waters of Hot Springs, a dinner and supper that would grace a table in any land, and an opportunity to dance till morn with the fair ladies of the place—two hops being given in our honor, one at the Arlington, the other at the Hot Springs Hotel. Here, too, we had the inevitable toasts and speeches. Well, they are a good thing—at times.

We returned to Malvern on Friday morning. We all had quite a scare on the way, from a runaway not arranged for in the programme. The brake attached to one of the large Concord coaches gave way on a long, steep hill-side, and the four-horse team was soon beyond the control of the driver. Matters looked very serious for a few minutes, but were soon ended by the leaders attempting to pass another coach, one on each side. This resulted in one of them getting a foot in a wheel, and a broken leg, which caused a sudden stop without any other serious damage. A friendly bullet soon put an end to the sufferings of the poor brute. The remainder of the trip to Malvern, and from that to Arkadelphia, was without incident. At the latter place a barbecue awaited us. Plenty of beef and bread and pickles and water, and to spare. In the evening we had resolutions and speeches. After going a few miles further south to see the rich bottom-lands and cotton-fields, we decided to return to Little Rock. Here the party divided—a part going west in the direction of Fort Smith, a part east on the Memphis and Little Rock Railway, and still others remained in the city. After the day spent in sight-seeing we all met again on the train, and were soon homeward bound. Nothing worthy of special mention happened on the



way back. The points of most interest were Pilot Knob and Iron Mountain, of which you have all read and know. Our train arrived in St. Louis just too late for some of the out-going trains, which, we think, might have been avoided. All were pleased with the trip, the courtesies of the managers of the excursion, and the hospitalities of the people.

Now, as to our impressions from our trip. We think that the many stories about life and property being unsafe are much exaggerated. Any one going into the State for any other purpose than "foraging" will be made welcome. The political troubles seem to be in a great measure settled. They are somewhat in financial straits, but are willing to scale down and refund the scrip and bonds that were issued and sold at such ruinously low rates, allowing a good round profit to the holders.

The climate is all that can be desired except, perhaps, a little too favorable to chills and fever in many of the river bottoms. These seem to be inseparable from the rich vegetable deposits of any prairie or lowland country.

The products of the country are varied, cotton being the great staple. Yet the past year it is thought enough rye, corn, oats and hay have been raised for home consumption. Necessity has driven the people to try to raise these products, and their efforts have proven very successful. We were shown fruits and vegetables as large and fine as are to be found anywhere. What will you say to a cucumber weighing 56 pounds? We saw it, and felt the heft of it.

Timber is there in abundance and many varieties; in many places too much of it. Yet it will only be a few years until the active lumberman will take possession, and, instead of the silence of the unbroken forest, there will be the ring of the ax and the buzz of the saw.

Of the minerals there are iron, lead, copper, coal and gypsum. The coal deposits on the line of the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railway are very valuable. The coal is semi-bituminous, and burns to an ash without any clinker. It is claimed to be very valuable for use in the manufacture of iron.

Manufactories are few. With the abundance of raw material afforded, certainly a fine field presents itself in this direction.

But, it will be asked, what is all this worth? We will not attempt to estimate its value. Lands can be had from the State by the actual settler, 160 acres for himself, the same for his wife, and the same for each of his 13 children, if he has so many, free in fee to each. State lands can be bought from \$1.25 upwards. Railroad lands can be had from 50 cents to \$30 per acre. Improved farms are worth from \$5 to \$50 per acre, much of which will produce from three-fourths of a bale to a bale and a half of cotton, or from 40 to 60 bushels of corn.

Persons desiring information in reference to the State of Arkansas will be courteously answered by Hon. J. M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, Col. J. N. Smithee, Commissioner of Immigration and State Lands, or T. B. Mills & Co., agents for the purchase and sale of all classes of lands, and State and local securities, all at Little Rock.

## FROM THE "GEM OF THE WEST," CHICAGO.

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C. AUGUSTUS HAVILAND, EDITOR.

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Half a century ago Arkansas was represented as a God-forsaken country where civilized beings could not maintain themselves without the bowie-knife and derringer as constant companions. Time rolled on. The great civil war carried Northern men up and down its valleys and over its broad plateaus. It was found to be a land capable of dense population, and those who came home from the war told of its varied beauties, its majestic trees, its navigable streams, its minerals, its ores, its fruits, its inviting climate and its fountains of health. Peace was declared, and thousands looked with longing eyes to sunny Arkansas; but, alas, the strife was still going on. Men who had long lived with slaves to do their bidding could not forget all in a day, and many of those who went among them from the North proved but enemies in disguise. There was strife and contention, but at last peace came to them, and they are now a united and happy people, asking men of the North to lay aside their prejudices, and come among them as brothers of one great nation. We have been among them. We have conversed with their people. We have investigated as to their resources, looked upon their prairies and their forests, and we do not hesitate to declare that no State in the Union offers such attractions for the enterprising people of the North as the hitherto unknown and unexplored State of Arkansas. Peace reigns within her borders. There is no longer prejudice against Northern men, no feeling of hatred, no animosity, but an earnest desire that the enterprising men of the North shall come among them and build up their State.

Men of the North! Frost-bitten farmers of New England, New York, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, there is a beautiful field of promise, a land where winter is almost unknown, where the tropical plants and the grains of the North grow side by side, where millions of acres can be bought at from one to five dollars per acre, where Uncle Sam still offers you his title-deed, and where a fortune awaits all who choose to partake of the hospitality of its people and aid in building up the State. Soldier boys of the North, the boys who wore the gray, the noble sons of the South who were not less brave than you were, stand with open arms to greet you as brave soldiers, as honest sons of a great nation. Will you accept the right hand of fellowship and bear to them the olive branch of peace?

It is a golden opportunity to build a home and lay up wealth for your children among a hospitable people. Will you go and accumulate riches, or remain as starvelings in the North?

Forty years ago, Northern Ohio was one vast forest, with hills and broken land and but few settlements. Now it is dotted all over with beautiful cities and villages, and its wealth is almost beyond computation. To-day Arkansas stands as one great forest, with majestic trees rivaling those of Ohio, with a soil of a similar character, with climate far more inviting, with broad acres less broken (in fact almost level), and watered by numerous navigable streams, and with portions of the State filled with mines of coal and mineral substances where must eventually arise a Pittsburg of the West. These broad acres can be secured with a few paltry dollars, and poor men can build comfortable homes upon them with their own hands and with little or no money. Men of the North, men of New England, men of the cold and icy Northwest, we have investigated these matters, and state what we know. We have, in a free and untrammelled way, conversed with her people, and we know they stand ready to welcome you as brothers and friends who have by thrift, enterprise and true manliness commanded their respect. Again we ask, will you go to Arkansas and build up homes for yourselves and your children while there is an opportunity, or will you remain toiling on from year to year in the icy North with no hope of advancement? We ask these questions in all seriousness, and leave the answer with you.

## CHAPTER VII.—INDIANA.

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FROM THE "PORTER COUNTY VIDETTE," VALPARAISO.

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H. M. SKINNER, CORRESPONDENT.

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THE late Editorial Excursion to Arkansas has in many respects eclipsed every affair of the kind which has been hitherto known. The magnitude of the enterprise, the peculiarly elegant style in which it was conducted, and the deep and wide interest it has awakened, render it difficult to present in a limited space any adequate account of the tourists or the tour. Arkansas wants immigrants. Her soil and productions are of the best. Every advantage is offered to manufacturers for investing there their capital. Her citizens are loyal to the extreme. It was in order that the people of the North might be apprised of this that an excursion party was formed, by invitation of her citizens, from all the Western States to visit the State and note her advantages for themselves.

I left Valparaiso on the afternoon of Monday, September 27, and arrived at St. Louis on the next morning. I spent the day in the city, as the excursionists did not start until evening. I had the pleasure of meeting at her home Mrs. Dr. E. E. Webster, formerly of this city, and a sister of Mrs. A. V. Bartholomew. Here I also met the Doctor's nephew, Col. Loughborough, the organizer of the expedition. The following are a few notes of travel:

PALACE CAR "LITTLE ROCK," Wednesday Morning.

As I write, we are flying past the seemingly interminable forests which we have traversed all night. Here is a cotton-field in a little clearing, ripe for picking.

I have ordered a writing table, and with maps, gazettters and papers pass the time very agreeably. My *vis-a-vis* is a Mr. Webber, of Des Moines, Iowa. Somehow we are favored with a number of callers. Here comes Mr. McClenthen, the Chicago *Times* man who received the immortalizing caning from Herr Hesing,

of Chicago; and soon his swift pencil is detailing the matters of interest for his great paper.

Mr. Brown, of Little Rock, stops to inform me that he has taken a vote of the journals represented, on the money question. They stand as follows: for hard money, 37; for inflation, 17; neutral, 16. The scientific, religious and literary papers were not counted.

Rev. W. A. Clark, formerly of Valparaiso, comes to shake hands with us. He represents the *Elkhart Observer*. We are just crossing the White river. Just here comes an Arkansas thought: While the State has a hundred rivers, all offering magnificent water powers, and while labor is cheap, and all things are propitious, *why* send her cotton to New Hampshire to be manufactured?

Another visitor. Dr. Geo. F. Codd, of Chicago, editor and proprietor of the *Land Owner*, takes a place at our table. He wears a heraldic badge of diamonds, and is quite *distingue*. He desires to know if I am acquainted with Capt. W. E. Decourcy, his old-time friend, of Dublin, Ireland.

Mr. Hill, an Arkansan, passes around, with no little pride, a case of native wines. And so chatting, reading, writing, toasting, singing and playing, the morning passes away.

#### PAST MIDNIGHT.

Undoubtedly the greatest event of the tour is over, and we are left to dream of its splendor. We were met at Little Rock, where we arrived at two o'clock P. M., by several hundreds of people, and conveyed to different private residences for entertainment. My lot was fortunately cast with Mr. Sol. Clark, one of the most prominent lawyers. The entertainment given by my host was characteristically Southern in its cordiality. After dinner I was driven in a barouche about the city, where I met several fellow-travelers enjoying the same pleasure. Our party visited the Governor's residence, the Arsenal, the State House, and other points of unusual interest. The doorway of the Capitol had been widened to accommodate the cannon planted there by Brooks in the late rebellion. The grand banquet of the evening was held in Concordia Hall. Three or four hundred persons sat down to the tables at once. In the way of decoration and entertainment nothing was lacking that taste and lavish expenditure could secure. Responses were given to more than half a dozen toasts. Officers of the lately hostile armies in the late "unpleasantness" greeted each other warmly, and drank to each other's health. Touching and beautiful were the tributes of these late "Confederates" to the "old flag."

With the *eclat* attendant upon the presence of Governor, Chief Justice, Generals and other dignitaries still in my mind, and with the visions of splendor of the Southern capital before me, I bid you good-night and retire to berth 8.

HOT SPRINGS HOTEL, Sept. 30.

It must have been after two o'clock this morning when we left the splendid entertainment at Concordia Hall, Little Rock, and retired to our berths. After a few hours of sleep, we rose to find ourselves at Malvern, where we were to breakfast. Here we changed cars, and took the narrow-gauge railway toward

Hot Springs. We rode in flat cars, as the South Bend excursionists did awhile ago in the North. The road was not completed to the Springs, however, and we had 20 miles to travel in an El Paso stage coach.

Of all the coaches ours was certainly the liveliest. We had most of the younger members of the party. There were the young Indianapolis *News* reporter, the brilliant young commander, Lieut. Cushman, late of Saint Cyr, near Paris, Dr. Codd, late of Dublin, Col. Roots and several others. Our road lay up-hill through a densely wooded tract of country. The roads were terrible and full of ruts and stones. At times we were obliged to alight and walk up or down for a short distance.

After a few hours we arrived at this place. These springs are at present the most popular resort in the United States. There are frequently 3,000 visitors from abroad. There are guests here from various places in Europe, and from every State in the Union.

Every one remembers how Ponce de Leon once sought for the springs whose nature was said to cause perpetual youth and bloom. These are, doubtless, the ones whose reputation had reached the ears of the illustrious explorer. The waters gush forth from 56 openings in the mountains, at a temperature varying with the location from 93 to 150 degrees. It is the custom to drink the water hot, and to bathe in it at a high temperature. All invalids have "ral cans"—tin vessels shaped something like coffee-pots—and at all hours you see them passing by, carrying the liquid to their rooms to drink at leisure.

The town contains but 2,000 residents, yet it is very like a large city in many respects. There are no vacant lots. The place is lighted with gas; street cars run at all times. The hotels are enormous, and really magnificent. The reason of much of this is that the place contains but one street, which is more than two miles long. The mountains rise abruptly on either side, inclosing the town in the long and narrow but beautiful valley.

We were driven to our hotel, while a large party of the excursionists went to the Arlington House, further north. The Arlington is the most extensive and the larger house, yet I like ours best, since it is the most characteristically Southern. It is a genuine "watering-place" hotel, and is something like those I have seen at Coney Island and Ocean Grove. The halls look like they were made for regiments to march in. The verandas run the entire length of the front from each story. We have a fine bath-house, with its accompaniment of servants, boot-blacks, barbers, etc.

On alighting from the coach, Dr. Codd and I immediately repaired to the bath-rooms. We found every convenience that we usually find in a first-class establishment of the kind North, with the additional feature of the hot mineral water. We then went to dinner. This consisted of five courses and was complete in every particular. After dinner the large parlors and the shady verandas were the universal resorts. Here I had the pleasure of meeting a caller—a Mr. Moore, whom I used to meet with in Laporte, Ind., who had noticed my name on the register.

I took a long walk through the sunset. Venders of canes, lapidary dealers, visitors from abroad, boys with "ral" cans, and invalids thronged the avenues and jostled against one another.

I ran across a party of our quill-drivers who were being photographed upon a ledge of the mountain. In the evening I called upon the Moore brothers, and was conducted to the principal points of interest in the place by the elder one, who is now a civil engineer in the Government service. While I have been sitting here the editors have been congregating below. The verandas and parlors are crowded—supper is read

Room 57, Night.

Two grand balls are given in our honor this evening, and while I write the still town resounds with the swell of music and the trip of the dance. The grace and ease of the Southern ladies is surpassing. "The Lancers" is as much a favorite here as it is in the ball-rooms of the North. "Germans" are also popular. At the last "German" were two ladies who won general admiration. They wore long trains of black velvet, which swept like two comets over the ball-room floor. Our party are all to be distinguished from the other guests by the blue badges which they wear. Part are here and part at the Arlington.

When, in mercy's name, is a fellow to sleep? I'm boxed for to-night, if such a thing is possible.

(Tap at the door. Nigger, *sotto voce*): "Rev. Mr. Clark, of Elkhart, is here."

"I can't help it; I'm asleep—get out!"

(An hour later. Another nigger, *sotto voce*): "Dr. H. C. Coates, of Valparaiso, Ind., has just arrived."

"See him to-morrow. Get a—n—t!" To-morrow we return to Malvern.

The day dawned beautifully over the mountains upon the morning of our departure from Hot Springs. There was an early assembling of groups of our party and other guests in the grand halls of the hotel; there was a magnificent repast at the breakfast table, a farewell draught of the hot water, and the stages drove up in front to take the party upon its return trip. Our same party were again collected in our stage, and never was a livelier company brought together. The wit of the gentlemen from Chicago, Little Rock, Indianapolis and Dublin kept our party in a merry uproar during the entire journey—no, once it was stopped, and it gave place to a burst of horror at a scene where the lives of a dozen of our party were endangered. We were at the top of a long and rugged hill; the road down was full of deep ruts, with an occasional stone or stump. Our stage, the second in order, was about to descend, when a loud noise brought to us the fact that there was a runaway coach immediately behind us. Our driver turned to let it pass, but not a second too quick, for it struck the hub, over which I was sitting, with violent force. In a moment we alighted, and rushed forward over the road after the runaways. Never can that sight be forgotten. The four horses seemed to leap rather than to run. The large vehicle with its freight of precious lives swayed to and fro in its perilous flight, like a boat in a stormy sea. Seeing that it was hopeless to endeavor to keep the coach from the crash which must cost the lives of the party while continuing forward,

the driver determined to sacrifice his team, and succeeded, by desperate exertions, in turning the flying steeds into a fence at one side. As by a miracle, the whole party escaped injury; but one of the horses fell, its hoof broken off, its cheek torn and mangled, and its side pierced by staves.

Through this and other unlooked-for circumstances our party were delayed, and did not arrive at Malvern and Arkadelphia as soon as expected, but were some hours late.

At the latter place a barbecue had been prepared for our entertainment. We marched from the depot with a large number of our generous hosts to the scene of the festival. A long table had been built in a beautiful grove, and bountifully spread with roasted meats, bread, pickles and vegetables, to which our hungry party did ample justice. We had intended to leave for the Texas border on the same afternoon, but this now had to be given up, as we had lost so much time by delay. Col. Loughborough proposed instead to treat us to a visit to the cotton-fields to the south of the city, and we left the grove immediately after dinner to start on this delightful journey.

Through the courtesy of the Colonel, a large number of ladies and gentlemen were invited to accompany us. The palace cars were filled to overflowing. Our party were introduced to a number of the fair ladies of the South, who now, for the first time during our trip, were our companions. We visited some large cotton-fields several miles to the south, and left the train in order to procure samples of the blooms for souvenirs.

At about dark we re-embarked, and sped gaily on to Arkadelphia. By request the ladies sung for us, and a number of our party joined in the music. Singularly, I thought the first air they sung was one which I have often heard in our High School at home—

“Go where you will, on land and on sea,  
I'll share all your sorrows and cares;  
And at night while I kneel by the bedside and pray,  
I'll remember you all in my prayers.”

At Arkadelphia we were received in an immense hotel-room, where there were billiard tables and a bar. The welcoming speech was made by Col. Goulding, whose daughter had accompanied us upon the excursion. Among the responses given was one by Rev. W. A. Clark, formerly of our town, and Mr. Robinson, of Fort Wayne. These gentlemen did themselves credit by the gentlemanly and elegant manner in which they responded to their generous welcome. At a late hour we again repaired to our coaches, where our berths had in the meantime been arranged. I little thought it was to be my last night in the “Little Rock,” or that I would next evening be among the “Secessionists” from the party.

On the morning after the Arkadelphia expedition, we woke to find ourselves at the station in Little Rock. We breakfasted at a grand hotel connected with the railway, and then assembled upon the large platform adjacent to “resoloot” and form our different excursion parties. Now, for the first time, our company were to separate—one division to go east upon the Memphis road, and one to follow up the Arkansas river toward Fort Smith. Desiring to see the western



part of the State, I chose the latter route, and I afterwards had no occasion to regret it. Among my fellow-passengers were Rev. W. A. Clark, of Elkhart, and Dr. H. C. Coates, of the Vale. It was a beautiful morning, and the company were in high spirits. A dining car was attached to our train, and almost any desirable luxury in the way of eatables and drinkables was to be found, and ably served by amiable darkies. We visited the Clarksville cotton-gin, and the coal mines near the west terminus of the road. Here we were all to stop, and here we should have remained had it not been for the kindness of Col. Curry, the proprietor of the stage line from that place to the Fort. The gentleman offered to all who would go a passage with him in his coaches. A large number of persons were immediately seized with the Fort Smith epidemic; but after considering the horrors of a 50 miles ride at night to an already fatigued party, nearly all of them declined, with many regrets, the invitation they had before so heartily accepted—all but six: Dr. G. F. Codd, of Chicago, Lieut. Cushman, of Little Rock, Mr. Fisher, of Elyria, O., two printers from Northern Ohio, and "Our Reporter," ———, a party who

"Vital in every part,  
Could not but by annihilation die."

We rode on to Altus and alighted, and the train cut off all retreat by returning to the mines. Altus has been built entirely since last May, and consisted of buildings of fresh, new lumber. Dr. Codd and I accepted a cordial invitation to stop and refresh ourselves by a bath and a short rest at the "Korn Licker House," the only hotel in the place.

There proved to be passengers for only one coach, and we started on our solitary way toward the setting sun. Darkness soon fell upon us, and as we dashed through the gloom of interminable forests, a sense of the romance of the occasion and the grandeur of the scene brought upon us a strange witchery of feeling. Our party joined in the airs of "Silver Threads among the Gold," "Swanee River," "Old Cabin Home," and kindred songs. We halted at Ozark, a village in the Ozark Mountains, for supper. We did not stop again until after midnight, when we changed horses at a solitary stable in the depths of the wood. There was no sleep for us that night. Nine of us were packed in the coach, and four were riding on the top. For a time I joined the company above. The tall trees seemed in places to meet over our heads. The glare of the lamps only deepened the gloom beyond. In these days of interminable railways, a charm of novelty attaches to the old coach lines and the stage roads through the unsettled regions, which one can find in no other method of travel. Towards morning it became cold, very cold. Shortly after daybreak the Colonel reined up the horses at the residence of Mrs. England, at the city of Van Buren, intending to claim the hospitality of the house. We were warmly welcomed. A cheery fire glowed in the fireplace, and a bountiful breakfast was soon served in the adjoining room. Never can we forget the bright glow and the genial hospitality of that pleasant cottage under the sycamores at Van Buren. There was no public reception of our little party, for the residents of that place had no idea that we should visit their part of the State. It was a beautiful Sabbath morning, and the city was

slumbering in quiet. We drove on from Van Buren, crossed the broad Arkansas in a steam ferry, and about nine o'clock reached our destination—Fort Smith. Though our party came unexpected, it was not long until a number of gentlemen called upon us; indeed, we were the recipients of constant calls during the day. Among others we met Senator Fishback, a noble man and a true statesman. We went to visit the old fort. Part of this lies in Arkansas and part in Indian Territory. After many, many years of ruling importance as a trading and military post, Fort Smith has been superseded in the Indian trade by other posts of more modern date, and in the present state of peace with "Lo," we have little need of it as a military stronghold. The ancient house of the garrison is now used as a court-room and jail. Other buildings have been burned and ruined. Five still remain, if I remember correctly, of all the buildings of the fort. The rampart inclosing these covers, I think, about three acres. It was never completed, owing to the hostility of Gen. Scott to the expending of so much money on it at the time of the Mexican war. In front of the old magazine still stood the gallows where the six murderers were hung on the third of September of this year—an event familiar to all of our readers. The ropes still hung upon the scaffold beam, and everything remained as on the morning of execution.

The house of the old garrison is built of red brick, and is large and old-fashioned in style of architecture. As we went up the steps and into the large centre room, I could not help thinking of its history. From out those windows, years and years ago, the soldiers used to look; not as I, upon a thriving and beautiful city, but upon an unlimited expanse of hostile country, which shut them out from the world beyond. Here they lived; before this old fire-place the blazing logs lit up their sad or merry groups. There they fell, manfully fighting, and the cold stone walls of the parapet are their noble monument. Those were heroic days in the early history of the fort. We climbed over the iron gate on the north side, and after passing the State-line monument, found ourselves in the Choctaw division of Indian Territory. Tourists who speak of Indian Territory are nearly all accused of exaggeration. Their descriptions, however, are fully realized in Choctaw land. The landscape reminded me of the Miltonian painting of the plains of heaven; with its distant ridges of mountains, its smiling plains, its graceful hills and winding streams, the scene is as fair as the human mind can conceive.

I was obliged to start on my return on Sunday night, in order to be present at our Valparaiso Fair. The Doctor, the Lieutenant and Mr. Fisher decided to remain longer, and my only companions were Messrs. Mann and Ellis, of Ohio. An agreeable surprise awaited us at Van Buren. A large number of citizens had gathered at Mrs. England's, and another bountiful "spread" had been prepared. This was our last entertainment by the people of the State, which was highly appreciated, and met with a hearty response. Some of our hosts were from the North, and others had always lived in the South. The warm welcome with which they met us was characteristic of Southern hospitality.

At Altus we breakfasted at the "Korn Licker House," and we rode all day over the road to Little Rock. The excursion party had long since left, and I

expected to meet none of my former companions. While passing through a car of the Iron Mountain train I was hailed by Judge Shirk, of Peru, Ind., with whom I returned to St. Louis. Here I again met Dr. and Mrs. Webster, McClenthen, of the *Chicago Times*, and Mr. Mathews, of Ohio.

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Since the majority of our party, in "writing up" this excursion, have dwelt particularly on the features and resources of the country, I have recorded principally the events of the tour. I ought, however, to give testimony as to the wants of the State.

*Arkansas wants farmers.* So exclusive has been the culture of cotton for years, that until quite recently scarcely any enterprise has been expended upon cereals, and these have been imported to a very large extent from other States. The productiveness of the soil was truly astonishing to our party. The diversity of the lands, presenting to us rolling prairies, rich bottom-lands and elevated mountain regions, affords facilities for producing almost any crop the planter might desire. Land is cheap. From the abundance of timber, houses, fences and other improvements are also cheap. Every natural advantage is there, and is only waiting for capital and enterprise to develop the State's resources.

*The State wants mills and millers.* First-class water-power is to be met with on every hand. Deep and rapid streams without number course through the country. There are but few mills in the State. Before the inhabitants began to manufacture their own breadstuff these were not greatly needed; now, however, the awakening agricultural industries require and will support a large number.

*The State wants manufactures* of all kinds. Why should she send to Illinois and other States for almost every tool and agricultural implement she uses? Why is her cotton sent to New England for manufacture when a little enterprise would manufacture it at home?

*Arkansas wants mines and miners.* The State is said to possess more mineral wealth than any other in the Union. Coal, iron, lead and zinc are found in large quantities. Quarries of excellent stone and rich marble abound. Mineral lands may be obtained very cheap, and when developed will pay an immense profit to one who invests in them.

*The State wants men*—true, honest, enterprising men, such as we have in abundance in the North. She wants men like Col. Loughborough and Col. Mills, who will labor to build up the State. We predict a brilliant future for Arkansas. Rising above the misfortunes of war, awakening to life all her latent energies, Arkansas will soon take a front rank in the band of States.

## FROM THE "NEW CASTLE COURIER."

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D. W. CHAMBERS, CORRESPONDENT.

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Your correspondent left New Castle on Sept. 27th and arrived at St. Louis at 7.30 on Tuesday morning, and so had all day Tuesday in the great city of the West, taking in the bridge and tunnel under the streets; but as St. Louis has been visited by many of your readers and often described by correspondents in your paper, it is unnecessary for me to enter upon any description of its present status or its great future.

We left St. Louis by the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad at nine o'clock on Tuesday night, Sept. 28th. It might be here proper to say that your correspondent formed one of a party of editors from the Northwestern States, who visited the State of Arkansas by invitation of many of her enterprising citizens for the purpose of extending information as to the great natural resources of this heretofore comparatively unknown and much abused State, and to report upon the important question to Northern men contemplating emigration whether Arkansas, with her genial and semi-tropical climate, is a safe place for such men to migrate with their families; but of this I will say more farther on in this letter.

After being fairly domiciled in the Pullman cars put at our service, and to be occupied as our homes until our return to St. Louis, I discovered that our party was composed of representatives of over 100 papers from the States of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri, the largest representation being from Indiana and Illinois. It may be stated as a fact in this connection that an enterprising reporter of one of the Little Rock papers passed through our train and took the census of the papers represented on the question of inflation or specie resumption, and out of the 44 papers that had any opinion upon the question, 30 were for specie resumption and 14 for inflation; the *Courier* is one of the 30 reported in favor of specie resumption.

After a sound sleep, and during which time we passed many objects of interest, such as the Iron Mountain of Missouri, and Pilot Knob, a place of note during the war, we awoke Wednesday morning at Moark, a town situated, as the name indicates, on the Missouri and Arkansas line; so at this point we reached the real object of our tour of observation in the State of Arkansas. From this place we moved southward over a well timbered country a distance of 44 miles to Walnut Ridge, where we had an excellent breakfast served up "free gratis for nothing." After breakfast a bear tied to a tree close by was the object of attraction, and we were reliably informed that they were abundant in the forests close by. Upon leaving here we continued our way to the city of Little Rock,

distant 340 miles from St. Louis. The region of country traversed by the Iron Mountain Railroad from the northern line of the State of Arkansas to this city, save on the river bottoms, is decidedly new, and timbred chiefly by oak, gum and hickory. Small farms are opened along the road at distances of from one to four miles apart, the latter being the distance from one clearing to another, the crops raised being chiefly corn and cotton.

On our arrival at Little Rock at three P. M. on Wednesday, we found in waiting for us hundreds of the citizens of the city with their carriages ready to convey us to their residences for dinner. Your correspondent had the great pleasure of being entertained by Major Harrington, United States District Attorney for the State of Arkansas, and his estimable lady, and after dinner was driven all over the city and around the suburbs; all of the excursionists were treated in the same manner, no trouble or expense being spared by the citizens to show their city and the spirit of her people toward Northern men. Little Rock is a beautiful city, situated on the southern branch of the Arkansas river, on an elevated plateau overlooking the surrounding country in every direction for many miles; down the river to the southeast extend the wide river bottoms covered with cotton-fields as far as the eye can reach, and the same view is presented up the river. The drainage of the city is natural and excellent, and its healthfulness unsurpassed. It is the geographical and commercial center of the State. It is located at a point on the river which steamboats of large size can always reach a greater part of the year, and in many seasons the year round. And there is every reason to believe that this city of roses will be a second Indianapolis. Having the natural advantage of a good navigable river to start with, it has already added thereto railroads from four different directions, with some five more in course of construction. When these roads are completed Little Rock will be the hub of a State much larger than Indiana. The southeast half of this State is as rich a cotton-field as there is in the Union, and the northwest half is as rich in iron, coal, stone and timber as any part of the country, and is unsurpassed in its capabilities for the production of corn, wheat, oats and other Northern cereals and all kinds of fruits known in Indiana, together with many semi-tropical fruits. With these natural and artificial advantages we cannot see why Little Rock should not be a city of more than 50,000 inhabitants in less than ten years. It will be, when the railroads now in course of construction are completed, the commercial and manufacturing center of a district of country much larger than that of either Indianapolis, Cincinnati or Louisville. It has one college, many excellent schools, commercial houses, banks, lawyers and doctors commensurate with the wants of the people. Having thus taken in the city during the afternoon and evening, at nine o'clock P. M. a banquet was given the excursionists at Concordia Hall by the citizens, and was said to have been one of the largest and grandest ever given in the Southwest. The large and spacious hall was decorated with the stars and stripes on every side. On entering the hall the motto, "The Pen is mightier than the Sword," first struck the eye. Another sentence in quotations were the words "Young Man, go West," the sentence pointing south, meaning,

of course, by way of Little Rock. This of course suited your Greeley correspondent. The room was decorated with a great many pictures, among which I may mention Col. Sandy Faulkner, the old original Arkansas traveler, who, I learned for the first time, was a real genuine man, and no imagination. The supper was superb. The ladies of the city had covered the tables with button-hole bouquets, which the excursionists were not slow in appropriating. There were many toasts and responses, in all of which there was manifested the warmest feeling between the Southwest and Northwest.

At two o'clock in the morning our party betook itself to our sleepers, and without knowing when we started or when we stopped, on Friday morning we found ourselves at Malvern, where we were furnished by the citizens with a most excellent breakfast, and after a little speech-making we seated ourselves on the platform cars of a construction train of a narrow-gauge railroad being built from this point on the Iron Mountain Railroad to Hot Springs, a distance of 22 miles. Running out on this train about eight miles, we took old-fashioned stages, and slowly made our way over a semi-mountainous country to the city of Hot Springs, a city of between 4,000 and 5,000 inhabitants, and decidedly cosmopolitan in all of its characteristics. It has a large number of most excellent hotels, among which I may mention the Arlington, a new house erected at the enormous expense of \$80,000, and equal, in all its equipments, to the best hotels of Cincinnati or Indianapolis. The city is built upon one street only, two miles or more in length, and turns in different directions about as often as a cow-path through the woods. This is a matter of necessity, as the city is in a narrow valley, hardly affording room for one street and houses upon either side, and the mountains are too steep for any buildings or streets. So this is a city without any dog-fennel, back streets, turn-table streets, filthy alleys, or cross streets. The buildings of the town are not generally first-class, from the fact that the title to all of the land on which the city is built and for a mile in every direction is in dispute, the United States having reserved four sections of land immediately around the Hot Springs, but yet private parties claim title to the lands, and their claims are sufficiently plausible to have caused litigation over the title. The District Court of the United States has decided the title to be in the Government, but the private claimants have appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States. That the Government should retain control of these Springs there can be no question. To allow them to pass into the hands of private parties would be to establish a monopoly and debar all parties, not millionaires, bloated bondholders, or coupon-clippers, from bathing in waters which are a specific for many of the chronic ailments to which flesh is heir. The number of these springs is 57, varying in temperature from 93 to 150 degrees Fahrenheit—the latter boiling an egg in a few minutes. They are all situated on the east mountain of the valley, the water coming from the west mountain, only 100 feet distant, being cold. The tops of these two mountains are 400 feet above the bottom of the valley, and the valley is 600 feet above the level of the ocean. The tops of both of the mountains, as well as the sides, are heavily covered with oak and pine timber. The use of these waters, liberally applied, both internally

and externally, is almost a sure cure for skin and scrofulous diseases, for rheumatism and neuralgia, and is a dead shot on hay fever, and a valuable aid in the treatment of many other diseases too numerous to mention in a letter of this character. The ladies have found that by drinking and bathing in these waters their complexion is greatly improved, and those on the shady side of forty have their early wrinkles removed and the complexion restored to the beauty and softness of early womanhood. These waters may be drank just as they flow out of the mountain side, without any unpleasant sensation; there is none of that flat, sickening taste felt in drinking water artificially heated, but it is palatable and toning in its immediate effects. There is one remarkable property about these waters, as we were informed that if a quantity of this water, as it runs from the spring at a temperature of 150 degrees, and an equal quantity from a cold spring, in separate vessels, be placed upon a stove, the cold water will boil first, the heat applied to both vessels being the same. Heretofore these springs have been almost inaccessible to the world, as, until within a little over a year ago, it was necessary to stage it over a rough, mountainous road, a distance of 60 miles from Little Rock, and a trip to the springs and back, without an upset, was an exception. Now it is only necessary to stage it 22 miles, and in this distance, our party had a runaway which resulted in killing a horse and temporarily bleaching, by fright, fourteen editors. But the narrow-gauge railroad from Malvern to Hot Springs will be completed and cars running over it by the first of January, 1876, so that the most confirmed invalid may very soon make the journey without risk of breaking limb or being jolted into a jelly before reaching the fountain of youth.

These thermal springs are destined in the near future to become a great resort for invalids from all parts of the country, as well as a fashionable residence for persons of fortune. Guests from all parts of the world are found registered at the hotels. As all your readers are not invalids, and as many of those who are may not have the means to journey 700 miles to Hot Springs, and pay from \$25 to \$100 a month for board, I pass from the subject. Suffice it to say that our party spent a day and night in this place, and it will no doubt be written up by much abler writers than the representative of the *Courier* on this excursion.

Returning to Malvern we entered our sleepers, and soon found ourselves at Arkadelphia, a fine little town situated at the head of navigation on the Ouachita river, distant 60 miles southwest from Little Rock. Here an ox had been roasted whole for our party, which after proper carving, and other good things had been added, we consumed in good style. After much speech-making and protestations of love by our opponents in the late unpleasantness, and after making the acquaintance of many beautiful ladies who here turned out *en masse* to welcome us, as they had done at all other points, we proceeded southwestward 10 or 15 miles, and at intervals the train was stopped to allow us to get out and run over the cotton-fields, now white as fields covered with snowball bushes in full bloom. All supplied themselves with one or more stalks of the great king of the South to take home for exhibition. We here learned that such cotton-fields as we were then in, and which would produce from one to two bales of cotton per acre, could

be bought from \$15 to \$20 per acre ; this, of course, meant at that price per acre for the whole farm, taking improved and unimproved land together, but all susceptible of cultivation. Much of the cotton is raised by colored tenants, who receive three-fourths of the cotton and deliver the other fourth in the bale to the landlord. So it will at once be seen that cotton-raising is profitable to both tenant and landlord, even at the present low price of 13 cents a pound, or \$65 a bale. It requires the same amount of labor to raise cotton and corn to time of harvesting, but the cost of picking and ginning an acre of cotton is considerably more than gathering and cribbing an acre of corn. After having thus learned all we could about the price of land, terms of leasing, and profit of cotton-raising, we again betook ourselves to our traveling home, and on Saturday morning woke up in Little Rock.

Our party here divided, some going northwest on the Little Rock & Fort Smith road, and others going eastward to Memphis ; among the latter was your representative. Concerning the country up the Arkansas river, I know nothing, except by information from those who took that route, but from this source I learn that this part of the country has a more Northern appearance than any other part of the State, and is a most excellent fruit country ; improvements good—many two-story brick and excellent frame houses, with slate mansard roofs, good out-buildings, and other evidences of civilization and refinement. In fact, this part of the State is largely settled by Northern men, the Little Rock & Fort Smith road being built entirely by Boston capital. The country along this road is slightly rolling, part prairie and part timber, the latter being very large.

The eastern division of the editorial corps went eastward as far as Forrest City, on what is here known as Crowley's Ridge, over 100 miles from Little Rock and about 40 from Memphis. Along this route the country is largely prairie, but dotted all over with islands of timber, so that at no point can the farmer get more than a mile or two from timber ; in fact, so plentiful is timber in this State that we nowhere saw any farm fence other than the worm-rail style. Lonoke, the county seat of Lonoke county, is a young and thriving village, the county only having had an existence since 1873. Carlisle is another point on this road of considerable promise. Lonoke is 23 miles from Little Rock, and Carlisle about 25. Both of these villages are in the prairie country heretofore spoken of, and land may be bought near either of these points at from \$2 to \$10 an acre for unimproved, and \$5 to \$50 for improved. On these prairie lands I learned, by inquiry of divers persons as to the crop yield here, that an average yield of wheat is from 15 to 25 bushels ; corn, 20 bushels ; oats, 40 bushels ; and hay, two tons per acre. Governor Hadley, a New York carpet-bagger, told me that he cut from four acres of timothy 11 tons of excellent hay. An extensive business is here being done in cutting the wild prairie grass, baling it with a steam press—which we saw in operation—and shipping it to Memphis and Little Rock. For many kinds of fruit these prairie lands are unexcelled ; peaches were here so abundant during the past season that the very best qualities only brought 25 cents a bushel. Excellent apples are grown here, but there is some difficulty in



getting varieties to keep well all winter. Heretofore the nursery stock of this part of the State has been largely purchased from Northern establishments, and what are winter apples North turn out to be fall apples South. This they are now attempting to remedy by propagating from Southern seedlings or buying their trees from nurseries of their own latitude. But the specimens of apples we saw were good. The possibilities of this section of the country for the production of pears are certainly unsurpassed even by California. We here saw a Duchess d'Angouleme pear that weighed two pounds and three ounces. The writer has experimented slightly on pear-raising, but has never succeeded in getting a specimen of this variety to weigh over three-quarters of a pound. Apricots, figs and some other varieties of fruit of a semi-tropical nature may be raised in Central and Southern Arkansas.

Crowley Ridge is the only high ground between Little Rock and the Mississippi river. This ridge starts out from the river at Helena and runs to the northern line of the State, is from five to ten miles in width, well timbered with large yellow poplar, sugar, gum, beech, black and white walnut; soil fertile. This ridge is very healthy and well settled; land is worth from \$5 to \$40 an acre, according to improvements. We noticed along this ridge fine apples still on the trees, and where the peach crop had literally broken all the trees down, so that it appeared to us that they would be worthless for another crop. Fine large springs run out all along this ridge and make it an excellent stock country, as all of our Northern grasses grow well upon this clay soil.

Pardon me for so long a letter, but allow me to say to the young men and old contemplating a change of home, either to better their climate or financial condition, go and look at the Southwest before taking your families to Minnesota, Nebraska, or any other Northwestern State, to be buried in the snows for many months in the year.

I have said nothing on the question of society and the political status of the South, from the fact that our people are daily surfeited by columns of information on that subject. No man need expect to find as good society in a comparatively new country as we have in Henry county. But any one with an average amount of pluck may go to Arkansas—and I have no doubt it is true as to most other parts of the South—and hold any political notions he sees proper, and be just as safe as anywhere else in a country as new and sparsely settled as this State. They have severe laws here against carrying concealed weapons, and they also have that most excellent law against the use of provoking language, and the penalty is much heavier than in Indiana, and thereby every person in Arkansas is required by law to be a gentleman; but of course all citizens do not anywhere obey the laws of the land. I have another reason to believe society good in Arkansas; it is this: I was introduced to no one, heard nobody else introduced to any one, heard no man speak in the State, and heard no man spoken of, who was not either a Governor, General, Colonel, Judge or Major. There is evidently no person in this State of as low a rank as Captain. I was, therefore, during my stay, breveted to rank suitable to the surroundings. Captains, Lieutenants and Misters have all migrated to Texas.

## FROM THE "GREENCASTLE BANNER."

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J. M. D. HAYS, CORRESPONDENT.

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The Arkansas Editorial Excursion met at St. Louis, Tuesday, Sept. 28, and left there over the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railway at nine p. m., in a train of Pullman palace sleeping coaches, upon the invitation of Hon. James M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner of said road, and Messrs. T. B. Mills & Co., editors of the *Spirit of Arkansas*, at Little Rock, Arkansas. The first stop was for breakfast at Walnut Ridge, county seat of Clayton county. This county is comparatively new and unsettled, but has good farming lands and abounds with the very best of timber. The next stop was at Judsonia, in White county. Here is located Judson University, Rev. Benjamin Thomas, A. M., President; 292 miles from St. Louis, and 53 miles northeast of Little Rock, in one of the most beautiful and healthful portions of the State, and in a community noted for intelligence and morality. The entire absence of saloons indicates the practical effectiveness of the law, which prohibits the sale and manufacture of the ardent, gambling, horse-racing, etc., within three miles of the institution. It is under the control or the management of the Baptists.

The party arrived in Little Rock, the capital of Arkansas, situated on the Arkansas river. The city took its name from a small rock, there being a large one on the north side of the river known as Big Rock. The excursionists were met at the depot by a large number of citizens, where carriages were in waiting, who conveyed the excursionists to the private residences of the citizens for entertainment. The two Greencastle representatives had the good fortune to be taken to Judge Eakin's, where they were entertained in true Southern style. The Judge is a gentleman of fine culture, being a graduate of Yale College, and was formerly an editor and lived at Washington, Hempstead county, and was the only editor who kept his paper running through the entire war. Little Rock is in Pulaski county, and had a population in 1870 of 32,066, and has now increased probably to 40,000. "The assessed value of real estate in this county is \$9,592,715, and personal property \$2,719,437, and no bonded or floating debt. This county lies on both sides of the Arkansas river, and in location and general characteristics is desirable. All the varieties of land and soil may be found here, from the gentle undulating alluvial to hilly peak and craggy cliff, the roughest, however, being the best fruit and grape land. Within the county can be found all the advantages sought by the farmer or merchant.

## THE BANQUET.

The complimentary banquet at Concordia Hall, given by the citizens of Little Rock, was one of the largest and grandest ever given in the Southwest. The

spacious hall was decorated with the stars and stripes on every side. On entering the hall the motto, "The pen is mightier than the sword," first struck the eye, but some eyes could not have struck it before 12 o'clock. Over the orchestra hung the handsome likeness of Mayor John G. Fletcher, and on the left of him, Col. "Sandy" Faulkner, deceased, the old original Arkansaw Traveler. The meeting was called to order by Hon. J. M. Loughborough, and Gen. R. C. Newton delivered the speech of welcome in an earnest manner. His welcome was but the counterpart of every one present. He said that he was pleased to have eye-witnesses in the State that people might be seen as they are, that their manners, habits, etc., might be observed. He wanted the visitors to come often and come at last to stay. It pleased him to know that we had an opportunity to show our State and our products and our people. The Northwest and Southwest were just becoming acquainted with each other, and he was glad to see it and hoped it would be continued.

Toasts and speeches then followed, interspersed with good music, until about two p. m., when the excursionists boarded their train for Malvern, accompanied by about 50 Generals, 24 Colonels, and one Lieutenant (Cushman) of the regular army, who is a team in every respect. From here we went by rail and stage to

#### HOT SPRINGS,

a place of some 3,000 inhabitants. No place in America offers to the afflicted more speedy relief for many of the ills to which human flesh is heir than these Hot Springs, as the rapidly increasing numbers which yearly congregate at this place clearly testify. The valley in which the town is situated is 600 feet above tide-water and is hemmed in by mountains 400 feet above the valley, and is well provided with hotels. One has just been completed at a cost of \$80,000, and is called the "Arlington," although the Hot Springs Hotel seems to have the run.

On the east side of the street and the west side of the mountain is where the hot springs are located, being some 58 in number. Some of them are hot enough to cook an egg in 15 minutes. There was a reception given at the Arlington at night and a hop at both hotels. The entire expense of conveying the guests to and from the railroad and hotel bills was paid by the citizens of Hot Springs, Col. Rector being the leader in the enterprise, and the finest looking man in the State. After returning to Malvern, on Friday we went to Arkadelphia, county seat of Clark county, on the Ouachita river. It is a promising town with some 1200 inhabitants.

The county has a population of 12,000, and is well watered by fine springs and streams, several of them furnishing valuable water-power. The bottom-lands are of excellent quality, while the uplands are fertile and productive in all the grain crops, and for pasturage or fruit-growing they are not excelled by any county in the State. The bottoms are composed of black soil and the farms here are very productive. Limestone of a superior quality is abundant here. This is a good country to migrate to.

The people of this town, Arkadelphia, are alive and full of enterprise. They gave the party a warm reception, prepared an old-fashioned barbecue, roasted

an ox, and had a splendid time generally. We went from there south to the cotton plantation of Col. Garling, where we witnessed the darkies "pick'n ob de cotton," weighing and preparing for the gin-house. The hat was passed and quite a number of nickels were raised, for which we were amply paid by the darkies singing some plantation hymns. We returned from here to Little Rock, where the party divided, part going down the Arkansas valley and part up, stopping at coal mines and saw mills, at Lewisburgh, in Conway county, where a large crowd met them at the depot, under the leadership of Capt. W. B. Gibson, who had a cannon on the grounds and fired salutes. This caused the crowd to be slow in getting out. A splendid lunch was in waiting, and the platform was full of samples of corn, wheat, apples, cotton, pumpkins and cucumbers, one cucumber weighing 64 pounds. The county is bounded on the south by the Arkansas river, and on the east by Pulaski; has a population of 9,000 enterprising people; good schools, churches, etc., and anything that grows can be raised here. It is filling up with men of grit from the North, who are plowing deep, making money fast, and are well pleased. After leaving here we stopped at Russelville, Pope county—pretty much of the same kind of land, citizens, etc. The train went as far west as Ozark, the present terminus of the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad. Returning, we took supper at Russelville, where everything had been prepared in splendid style, gotten up at the expense of Capt. Hartman, Superintendent of the road, to whom a vote of thanks was given for his generous hospitality and kindness shown the excursionists.

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## FROM THE "PERU DAILY TIMES."

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J. M. JACKSON, CORRESPONDENT.

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In letters during my late trip with the Arkansas excursion, I endeavored to give you an idea of the kind of time we were having, and what parts of the country we were visiting. I will now, in a few words, give you my impression of the country. In the first place, Southwestern Missouri is a very rocky and mountainous country, the principal production being pig-iron. Some of the soil would possibly make brick if well manured; but the idea of raising grain on such land would not be entertained in a well-regulated asylum for the insane. After passing the Arkansas line we found a fine, well-timbered country, with small cotton-fields, and such corn as we raise on our clay uplands. As we got further south the land improved in quality. Judging from the size of the corn, and the increase in number and size of cotton-fields, I think they have some of as good land on the Arkansas and Ouachita bottoms as there is in Miami county.

Further down, towards Texarkana, there are black loam lands covered with cotton-fields, which, if owned and managed by thrifty Northern men, would certainly have "millions in it." To say that the Southern people are hospitable would be uttering a proverb; but the people of the North have but little idea how anxious the planters and business men are to have emigration from the North and West. They look upon a large emigration from the North, bringing enterprise and capital, as being their only temporal salvation, and are ready to take by the hand any one who comes to seek a home with them, without regard to religious or political opinions. In company with Mr. Brooke I conversed with soldiers of the Union army who were through all the Brooks and Baxter troubles, and particularly with a most remarkably talented young Irishman who has a plantation on the road east of Little Rock, who gave me a full description of the troubles during the reconstruction period. His descriptive powers were wonderful, and for acting Winchell in his palmiest days could not excel him. I have forgotten his name, but will not soon forget him. Should these lines meet his eyes, I hope it will not cause him to blush when I say that the last toast by the "fire-delayed excursionists" was "The talented young Irishman we met by the way."

It would, perhaps, be out of place to acknowledge the courtesies received at the different points visited and by different parties, but an exception must be made in favor of Hot Springs. The people of that place excelled anything on the route; to attempt to describe it would be a failure; the citizens vied with each other in efforts to make our stay pleasant and agreeable. Col. Rector, in particular, seemed to be everywhere present, his fine personal appearance and manly bearing being the subject of universal remark. Before leaving the State of Arkansas the excursionists got together and adopted some resolutions, which I think expressed the unanimous sentiments of the party.

[The resolutions are printed on page 55.]

So much for the Arkansas Editorial Excursion. We did not get down into Texas for want of time. The programme included a barbecue at Texarkana, Texas, on the evening of Oct. 1st, but on account of delays at Hot Springs and Arkadelphia we could not run down there without getting behind at other places. Afterwards we learned they had made extensive preparations for us, and were very much disappointed. Taking the trip all in all, it was a very pleasant one. The party were mostly editors of papers from Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Missouri. They were intelligent gentlemen, who knew how to behave themselves. The only one that kept so gloriously drunk he could not say "truly rural," was, I am happy to say, not from Indiana. And now, Mr. Editor, I will close, and when another excursion of the kind occurs and no one else will offer, consider me in. I am always willing to sacrifice myself to accommodate.

## FROM THE "MAIL AND MAGNET," PLYMOUTH.

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CLIFFE M. BROOKE, EDITOR.

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Recently, as the invited guest of G. W. Hered, the General Traveling Agent of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, and Col. J. M. Loughborough, the gentlemanly Land Commissioner, we spent six of the happiest days of our existence in the glorious old State of Arkansas. Inasmuch as it is the earnest desire of the citizens of that great commonwealth, as well as the officers of the said railroad company, to have Arkansas shown up in her true light, so to speak, believing that by this means they might better encourage the emigration they covet, we shall take rather more than usual pains as well as pleasure in expressing our most hearty indorsement of that most worthy enterprise.

Accompanying our invitation were passes over the Chicago & Alton Railroad to St. Louis and a letter of instruction, stating that an excursion train, consisting of five Pullman palace sleeping cars, one day coach and a baggage car, would leave the Southern depot in St. Louis on Tuesday evening of the following week. Accordingly did we make our calculations, but the fates willed it that we should miss the proper train in Chicago on Tuesday morning, so we laid over until the evening train, and then stowed ourself away in one of Pullman's sleepers. Arising the next morning just as we were passing through Alton, the "dirtiest, wickedest" looking town in America (except Jeffersonville, Ind.), we were seated to a delicate breakfast in one of Pullman's hotel cars that had been attached to the train.

The road strikes the Mississippi river at this point, and following its banks for an hour longer we hove into East St. Louis. The reader has, perhaps, read of the great iron bridge over the Mississippi at this place, and we shall give no lengthy description of it. Unlike the usual drawbridge, it stands so high above the river that all vessels pass under. It is built after the "double-deck" plan, the railroad using the lower story, and the upper is used as a wagon toll-bridge. To ride over on the cars costs a passenger 25 cents. It is owned and operated by the St. Louis Bridge Transfer Company, and connected with it is a tunnel under the city of St. Louis for about a mile to the Union Depot.

Arriving here about eight o'clock, we took a 'bus for the office of the Superintendent of the Iron Mountain Railroad to get a pass and instructions how to overtake the excursion which we knew had left the night previous. Hurrying into the office of that affable dignitary, we stumbled against Col. J. M. Jackson, of the *Peru Daily Times*. Dr. H. C. Coates, of the *Valparaiso Messenger*, Wm. R. Newmyer, of the *Pittsburgh Advance*, and Judge G. W. Collings, of the

Rockville *Indiana Patriot*, who, like ourself, had missed connection in Indianapolis or Terre Haute, and were now in the same fix as ourself. The Superintendent had been expecting us, as we had informed him by telegraph from Chicago that we would be late, so our passes were immediately provided, and after wishing us a pleasant journey he directed us to take the 10 A. M. train from the Southern depot, and overtake the excursionists about four o'clock the next morning at Malvern, 43 miles below Little Rock, where all would disembark and stage 26 miles over the hills to the famous Hot Springs. Thanking him for his attention, and assuring him that we would endeavor to keep *the object* of the excursion in view in giving our report, we all withdrew and proceeded to the depot.

After spending an hour surveying the levee and the shipping, we boarded the train that was already jammed full. Before proceeding farther we will mention that we "kind o' took to" Col. Jackson, of the *Peru Times*, and at his suggestion we went in "cahoots" to the end of the journey. The Colonel went into the crowded car a few minutes before we did, and took a seat beside another fellow—the only vacant one left. As we came in, one glance convinced us that every seat was occupied, and that we must resort to some dodge to secure a seat unless we wanted to stand up all day and all night. The Colonel looked over his shoulder and winked down the car at us, and pointed at the chap who had given up half his seat to him. We understood the drift, and marching bravely up with as much courage as we could summon, we tapped him on the shoulder (grinding our teeth and trying to look savage) and accosted him as follows:

"You will have to give up my seat."

"The devil I will! That's what Brooks said to Baxter nigh onto a year ago, an' he didn't," replied the granger with suavity, as he hitched down farther into his possessions and drew his knees up against the back of the seat before him.

Putting on a more determined air, we resumed: "Come, I am in no humor for jesting, nor can you make this a game of bluff; if you don't give up my seat I will be compelled to call the conductor and use a more forcible argument. That's the kind of a hair-pin I am," with another yank at his shoulder.

"Hey? Don't care a cuss! Ain't one feller got jest as good right to a seat nor another, an' didn't I get'r first?"

"That is exactly the plan on which I claim this seat. When my friend, the Honorable Colonel, who sits beside you, and myself came into this car and took this seat, we did so with the determination of keeping it together clear to Texas, and we swore an infernal oath that we would stand by one another till h—l freezes over in the protection of our rights, and by the eternal jimminy Christmas we mean to do it, or we'll go out and kick ourself in three places. So you see you can save trouble and do the fair thing by giving up this seat, to which I hold a prior claim," said we, showing our teeth savagely as we unbuckled our Ulster duster and tossed it into the hat-rack.

"But I ain't feelin' well, an' I been sufferin' wi' corns, an' I got a bile on my neck," claimed my antagonist, as he relinquished several points by taking his knees down and sitting up straight in his seat.

"No difference. I've got one somewhere else, and the law of human endurance is no respecter of a boil's position. I want that seat in just a minute and a half now, or there will be one less passenger aboard this train," and we drew our skull-cap down over our ears and grabbed the bell-rope.

"Of course there will," chimed in the Colonel; "and besides, you're riding on a second-class ticket, and you've got red hair, and been eating onions, and no man with a boil on his neck can ride with me," and he drew up his nose a foot or two with an air of disgust.

At this stage in the controversy the granger hitched about uneasily on the red plush cushion, and appeared in a state of conglomerated abstractedness, but he blurted out:

"Did yer say I were in your seat? Be this seat your'n?"

"Didn't I say so?" said we, gritting our teeth till we shivered.

"Which'n?"

"This one."

"Which end on't?"

"This end of it."

"Who said so?"

"I say so, and you are in it."

"Who?"

"You."

"How do you know?"

"How do I know?" I'll show you. In about ten seconds you will look like a mince-pie struck by lightning," and we jumped up again and caught the bell-rope, and yanked it three times the wrong way.

"Just wait—you'll catch it—that will settle it," volunteered the Colonel, as he glared ferociously at the enemy, and then glanced back over his shoulder as if he were expecting the entrance of the train hands.

"See hyar, Mister!" said the granger, turning to me.

"Don't you mister me. It's no use. You're gone up."

"In course; but this are only a little joke," he declared, rising. "I knowed this were your seat all the time. It's your'n by rights, an' I can lick any man as says 'tain't. An' you shall have it. I seed yer an' the Kurnel hyar come in an' s'lect it more'n 'n'our afore train started out'n Saint Louie, an' when ye stepped out I jes' kep my eye on ye an' kem along an' sot down on't as big as bizness. I reckon'd I'd kep you out on't, but when a man comes along as will stick up fur his rights, why I orter cave. Take the seat—its your'n, an' it's my treat—nothing mean about me. Here, have a chaw—reg'lar Kentucky leaf—raised it myself. I live in Pike county, 'bove St. Louis—goin' to Poplar Bluff, 'tother side of Gad's Hill. Ye look like some more o' them 'ere Indiany editors as went down last nite. Pertickler fine set, the *Globe-Democrat* sez, an' the railroad a totin' ye around free gratis, an' a stuffin' ye wi' high-toned wines an' wittles, an' when ye git back to Indiany ye are expected to blow the railroad up hier nor a kite wi' yer newspapers. Mout I ax ye what pertickler paper ye are fur? *Mail and Magnet*, hey? Well, hang me, Mister Editor, if I hain't toted a many a one



from town myself. Ye see nabor Brown's farm jines mine up in Pike county. Brown is from Indiany, ni' Plymouth, an' he hez always took yer paper reg'lar, an' I tote it from town to him a purty good 'eal. Recklect how 'e laft an' laft onct a readin' 'bout a lawyer a tryin' to lick the editor, an' the lawyer got a black eye. Sed he know'd 'em both, an' the lawyer wur considerable bigger nor the editor, but the editor wur the maddest. Yer paper hez got a picter at the top on't. Seed it a many a time. Allers jes' alike—man choppin' a tree down an' a bufler a chasin' a prairie-schooner. Hope ye hold no hard feelin's 'bout the seat, Mister Editor. 'Spect I done wrong, but I axes yer parding. I know'd it wur your'n, an' I kin lick any man as says I didn't. I'll skirmish around in 'tother car an' see as I can find ary nother. Good-day, Mister Editor. Pleasant mornin', Kurnell. I know'd it wur your seat, an' I kin lick any man as says I didn't." With a defiant glance at the host of faces that were watching him, he stalked into the next car, and we sank exhausted into the seat beside the Colonel with a sigh of relief, amid the tittering of the rest of the passengers, who knew that neither the Colonel nor myself had ever been in the car before, and that we had cheated the granger out of his seat.

The train thundered merrily along, keeping close to the Mississippi river for about 30 miles, passing through country that was chiefly composed of rocky bluffs. One of the rocks was so large that it had to be tunneled a distance of 800 feet. If we remember right, this rock is 17 miles south of St. Louis, and as we surveyed it we wondered why in the deuce nature wanted to put such a stumbling-stone to advancement and leave no accessible way around it. With our eyes full of cinders, we stepped back into the car again and resumed our seat. We asked Col. Jackson what he thought of the soil in this part of the country, and he replied that according to his best judgment he thought if they would pick the stones out of it, and manure it a little, it probably would make good brick. Satisfied with his answer, we settled back in our seat and "nodded" ourself to sleep; but not until we had remarked that if there was any danger of our getting so "carsastic" about a little thing, we believe we should commit "siacude" immediately or sooner.

"Bismar-r-r-k! Change cars for Belmont, Cairo 'n Columbus," rang in our ears, and we roused up from our tedious nap in time to hear somebody exclaim: "There he goes—look at 'im—see 'im!" Upon inquiring of the Colonel who it was that was causing so much wonderment, he pointed out a hatchet-faced individual that was getting off our train on to the Cairo train and said: "Why, there goes Jefferson Davis, ex-President of the busted Confederate Republic. He's been on the train from St. Louis with us, it seems, and they say he is going to Nashville."

Feeling just as well satisfied with our hasty glance at his phiz as if we had stared at him a week, we examined our time-piece and the railroad guide, and found that it was 13 minutes past one P. M., and that we were 75 miles south of St. Louis. The country here was quite mountainous, and six miles further the train halted in full view of the famous Iron Mountain. We had heard so much about this mountain that our imagination had led us to expect rugged peaks

reaching to the clouds, but we were reasonably disappointed. Iron Mountain proper rose up to the east of the track to a height of perhaps 500 or 600 feet. It was of very gradual slope, and was thinly covered with small scrubby-looking white oaks. From where we stood it looked as though about an acre in area of the extreme top was "bald," bearing no verdure at all, and looked like a great blue rock protruding from the earth. We are told this is almost solid iron, and that the whole mountain is just so—only covered with a few feet of reddish-colored earth towards the foot. Around it on all sides are other peaks of almost equal dimensions, the whole forming the richest and most extensive iron beds known to the world. To the southwest of the chiefest of these peaks lies the little town of Iron Mountain, scattered about wherever they can best find places for building. Here and there, in and about the ravines, columns of black smoke curl slowly heavenward, telling of forges and blast-furnaces almost innumerable, turning out daily tons upon tons of pig-iron of the purest quality. Along the railroad track acre after acre is covered with pig-iron corded up like so much cord-wood. To our unsophisticated eye, it looked as though iron sufficient had already been exhumed to last the next dozen years to come. The view from the train was magnificent, and we would liked to have spent a week examining and viewing Iron Mountain; but we knew that if we intended to overtake the excursion train, we must stick to that train like puppy to a root. Our thoughts flew ahead to our editorial brethren who had been so lucky as to be on time. We knew they were that day enjoying the hospitality of the citizens of Little Rock, and that on the coming evening a grand reception was to be given them; but we also knew that we were nearly 300 miles behind them, and we depended on the night's travel to catch up. A slap from the Colonel upon our shoulder recalled us to the realities of the situation. He pointed to the express car, where the train-men were unloading a long box containing a corpse—somebody's dead—which they deposited carefully on the platform. Another pale, sunken face lay upturned toward heaven with a mute appeal for forgiveness, perhaps, for sins committed in the flesh. "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before Thee, and am no more worthy to be called Thy son." *Somebody* would weep a last good-bye over a familiar face, dear to them, that never again would smile on their old home—Iron Mountain.

Again we were "knocked into the middle of next week" by a slap on the other shoulder, and following the Colonel we clambered aboard, and the train sped down around the mountain side, shutting out our view as well as our thoughts of the busy little village of Iron Mountain.

Five miles further on the train curved past the base of "Pilot Knob," another one of the iron range; and still another three miles further we halted, and the brakeman roared, "Arcadia, twenty minutes for dinner!" Welcome sound. Pretty nearly the whole train-load filed along up a graveled walk to the hotel. And such a dinner! May heaven bless that landlord. The tables were almost groaning under their load of tempting viands. All the delicacies as well as the substantials of the season were there, and everybody in general, and the Colonel and ourself in particular, seemed to enjoy the dinner. During our whole trip

we did not find any place that "set up" such "grub" as Arcadia, and the Colonel wrung the hand of the genial old landlord (peace to his ashes), and showered blessings incoherently upon him as he deposited his little fifty cents (bogus) in his palm. Glorious Arcadia! Happy landlord! May peace and prosperity be yours.

"Armed to the teeth" with genuine imported "Key Wests," we both sauntered into the smoking car, and the train moved on. Taking observations, we noticed we were then 89 miles south of St. Louis, and that the time was 2:16 P. M.

The Colonel remarked that eating chicken for dinner put him in mind of an old rooster he once had. He also was the "paternal parent" of a remarkably smart boy. His name was William. That rooster was extremely select in his company—so much so that he wouldn't associate at all with the rest of the chickens. Whether this rooster led this hermitage from choice, or whether some other more ambitious rooster had notified him to stay aloof, is not known; but certain it is that he always wandered about alone. Bill had read in his Sunday-school books somewhere that "*birds of a feather will flock together.*" We could imagine the Colonel's astonishment on coming home one day and espying that same rooster stalking about with but *one long tail-feather* waving proudly in the gentle breezes, but looking even more forlorn and lonely than before that boy had taken him in hand. The boy grew up, married and went to Congress. The rooster died of grief at the boy's sad fate. Bill also owned a brunette monkey, and one day, when in Chicago, he saw a sailor with a parrot, and bought it of him. Bill took the parrot home. What the monkey thought when he first saw that parrot will never be known. Bill didn't know the parrot could speak one word of English, but he could. He heard the sailor say, "We've had a h—l of a time," and he had stored that away in the inmost recesses of his brain ready for use when occasion required it. Saturday night came, and Bill killed some chickens, and it was a regular matinee for the monkey to look on and see the feathers picked off. Sunday came, and the orb of day arose in gorgeous splendor, and kept doing it until Bill locked up his house and went to church. At noon Bill returned; he was in a cheerful mood, because the hat had not been passed around. He, with his family, entered the house, and they found the parrot's cage-door open, and the parrot missing. They searched high and low for that parrot, but could not find him. The monkey was there, and seemed to be in excellent spirits. The family sat down to dinner, and just as the young 'uns began to quarrel about who should have the "wish-bones" out of those chickens, a slight scratching noise was heard, and out from under an old lounge that parrot crawled without one feather on his back; and you can judge of the family's surprise when the poor, forlorn creature lifted up his head and exclaimed: "We've had a h—l of a time! We've had a h—l of a time!" From appearances he told the truth. He and the monkey had. Although we have caused the story to appear in print since hearing it, we believe it originated with the Colonel, or rather his boy "Bill."

"Gad's 'il!" yelled the brakeman, and he slammed the door in time enough to chop off the last letter.

"Gad's Hill is a point of interest," said the Colonel, as we jumped off together, "on account of its being the point of the famous train robbery."

Nothing but a forest of dense and lonely-appearing woods, the only place where we could see the sky being along the straight and narrow opening made by the railroad line. The only mark of civilization within reach of the eye, besides the train, was a post, with a sign nailed to it, telling the inquisitive that this was the much-talked-about "Gad's Hill." After glancing over our shoulder to see if there were any villainous train robbers going for us, we again took our seat, and went flying onward.

From this on nothing of interest occurred to mar the "monotony" of the clattering wheels, except an occasional stop to cool hot boxes. As the hours dragged their weary length, these stops became more frequent, and finally it seemed as if nothing occurred to mar the "cussed monotony" of hot boxes but an occasional run of a few miles. The deepening shades of night settled down o'er the world, and left us still struggling with hot boxes. O'ertaxed nature asserted her rights, and the Colonel and ourself went tired and supperless into the sleeper, and to bed—we to sleep the sleep of the innocent, the Colonel to seek refuge from his conscience for passing the bogus fifty cents; both supperless, because the supper station was still three or four hours away. The rumbling wheels, the ever-swaying train, the Colonel's pleasant "Good-night, Major, and pleasant be thy dreams," from the lower berth, were the last things we remembered, as the gentle spirits and the engine wafted us away into the dreamy unconsciousness of a dark and uncertain futurity, an innocent and peaceful repose. And thus ended our second day.

Thursday morning dawned bright and "on time," if the train wasn't, and we bounced out square upon one of the Colonel's corns which happened to be resting in the aisle. (Te-he.) Gentle reader, you ought to have been there. The snort that came up from under those blankets would have frightened a rhinoceros of the largest calibre, as he jumped up and bumped his head against the upper berth with sufficient force to floor him again. Poor Colonel; gentle corn! We assisted to untangle him from the blankets and sheets, endeavoring to explain the meanwhile; but that didn't modify the ferocity of the war-dance that followed, nor ease the discomfiture of the Colonel as he waltzed up and down that aisle with one foot in his lap. We made our escape from the front door, and sailed into the next car, and hunted up our other editorial brethren, *i. e.* Judge Collings, of the *Rockville Patriot*, Capt. Newmyer, of the *Pittsburgh Advance*, and Dr. Coates, of the *Valparaiso Messenger*, none of whom had thought to secure berths in the sleeper, and had to sit up all night in a crowded car. Let us not dwell on the miseries they must have suffered. Poor Colonel evidently was suffering miseries enough for all of us. To our surprise, instead of finding ourselves a good many miles beyond Little Rock, as we had expected to be, we still lacked about 100 miles of being there. We shall not attempt to relate how many times we stopped with hot boxes before making that 100 miles. It was enough to try the patience of an angel. Nor shall we attempt to portray the expression of injured innocence depicted upon the Colonel's countenance,

as he greeted us with a half-savage smile when we went back to tell him the situation.

Slowly the time passed, until about 11 o'clock the Arkansas river was crossed, and supperless and breakfastless we drew into the beautiful city of Little Rock. We all lost no time in answering the gong. Again we were happy.

After we had satisfied the inner man, we closed our teeth on a fragrant "Key West," and took a stroll on the platform. Here we were found by G. W. Hered, the Traveling Agent of the Iron Mountain Railroad (and a *perfect* gentleman), who introduced us to Gen. Thomas Essex, Assistant Land Commissioner, and whom we also found to be a very pleasant gentleman. Mr. Hered told us that the party of editors had a grand time in Little Rock the day previous, and that an immense reception was given them by the enterprising citizens of the city, followed by a banquet in true Southern style in the evening. They had departed that morning for Malvern, 43 miles south, where they would be loaded on flat cars of the partly constructed narrow-gauge railroad, and run back over the hills as far as the iron had been laid, a distance of nine miles, from whence they would go in stages to the Hot Springs. We were to stick to this train until Malvern was reached, where he had a special stage-coach ready for us, and we could reach the Springs by supper-time. The bell rang, and after securing a Little Rock *Morning Gazette*, we bade these two benefactors of the craft editorial a hearty adieu, and sped on and out of sight of Little Rock.

Here some of the prettiest country that we ever gazed upon was laid open to our view—the valley of the Arkansas river. As heavy timber as we had ever seen in our Indiana forests towered toward the sky. Nearly all the varieties of timber that are usually found in the North are grown here, but the tall yellow pine predominates. Corn and cotton fields stretched out on either hand, yielding enormous crops from these rich bottom-lands. We had little else to do but sit and look from our palace-car windows on the panorama of nature flitting by; and we thought that if health and wealth did not reward the efforts of the land-owner in such a garden spot, the fault must certainly lie *with him*, and not the country.

The Colonel nudged us and remarked that it was half-past one o'clock, the train was approaching Malvern, and we had "better brace up a leetle for dinner;" and presently the train drew up beside a depot surrounded with perhaps a dozen houses. So this was the long-looked-for Malvern. The hotel was immediately across the street, and the five belated editors, and a goodly number of other passengers, wended their way thither. Before entering its portals we turned and took a last savage look at the train we had stuck to since Wednesday morning, and on which we had based our hopes of overtaking our brethren of the quill at Malvern. Now we had 26 miles of staging over the mountains before we could reach them. It was just disappearing in the distance. Go it, old train! Distance lends enchantment to the view, anyhow. We part with you and your everlasting hot boxes now and forever, nor sigh nor regret to offer.

A refreshing wash and a square dinner did much to revive and refresh us again, and we were soon ready for the mule stage that stood at the door. When

we disembarked from the train we noticed that our Valparaiso editor, Dr. H. C. Coates, had got a piece of calico in tow, and in the dining-room we were made acquainted with her—Miss Jones, from Michigan, was going to the springs to recover her health. The doctor showed his preference for feminine society by picking a seat in one of the stages beside Miss Jones and some other passengers, leaving only four of us to occupy the specially-prepared-jerk-lightning-double-back-action-mule-stage-coach. Arming ourselves with a supply of cigars and etceteras, and the driver with other perquisites, we tumbled in, and a “glang!” and a sharp crack of the whip sent the old s.-p.-j.-l.-d.-b.-a.-m.-s.-c. down into the forests of “Arkansaw.”

The rapid gait maintained by the driver, and the rough roads over hills and through ravines, kept three or four plug-hats bobbing around inside; but we didn't get tired, for the novelty of the scenery and the ride were too much for that. Scarcely half a mile had been traversed until two wheels on one side ran into a “chuck-hole” and the old stage floundered clear over upon one side, throwing us all into confusion upon that side of the vehicle. The driver hung to his seat and “whaled” the mules, and the stage righted itself again, after waltzing along the roadside for a couple of rods. After regaining his seat and eying his mashed plug-hat, the Colonel poked his head from the door and asked the driver “if he wanted to fight?” The driver replied that he “didn't mind.” The Colonel then inquired “what in the devil he was trying to do?” Being assured by the driver that it was “only a little joke,” he settled back again and divided his time between brushing his hat and keeping the perpendicular. Twelve miles of such jostling, and the s.-p.-j.-l.-d.-b.-a.-m.-s.-c. rolled up beside a stable and a “half-way house.” Fresh mules were standing already harnessed, and were immediately put in place of the steaming and panting ones which had drawn us from Malvern. We had scarcely time to light a cigar ere the “glang” of the driver sent the old s.-p.-j.-l.-d.-b.-a.-m.-s.-c. (guess at the rest) rolling and tumbling over the hills. Occasionally, as the Colonel's head would go “thump-it-ty-thump” against the rail, or as he would stoop to recover his badly-damaged hat, we imagined we could see his eyes flash a little “hell-fire and brimstone” all to himself, as he probably meditated on the advisability of challenging the driver to “another fight.” But few farms were along the route, and occasionally we would get a glimpse of domestic animal life in the shape of a pig or a cow. The queerest species of hogs we ever saw were the only kind brought to our notice in Arkansas. The Colonel said their ears were in the middle of their back, and all that was in front of the ears was snout, and all that was behind was tail. Whether he hurt himself any in getting this off we did not notice, but certain it is that if our readers ever see Barnum's Hippodrome they should look for a specimen of the average Arkansas hog. He surely will find it there, for Barnum never overlooks a living curiosity.

The country began assuming a more ragged appearance, and the road wound in, out and around, wherever it could gain a footing. The speed of the coach had slackened somewhat, and the sun was still about an hour high, when a rough-looking individual with a brace of bloody horse-pistols stuck in his boot-tops rode

around the brow of a hill and commanded the driver to "halt!" "Nary halt," yelled the driver, as he laid the long whip on the mules, and the old coach skipped by the stranger like a streak of greased lightning. The Colonel grabbed the Captain and we grabbed the Judge, and we all rolled over into the middle of the hack, and the hack rolled up and down, over and under hills and rocks, and the end was not yet. "Whang!" went a pistol-shot, and immediately we all bunged our heads together as each ducked his head involuntarily in anticipation of another. How we all cursed ourselves for ever setting foot in Arkansaw! We had not bargained to meet robbers and highwaymen. Everything was confusion inside, and still the coach whirled along the narrow serpentine roadway. The road was so narrow the robber could not pass by the coach, and still the high rate of speed was kept up, with the rattling of the pursuer's horse's hoofs ringing in the air.

For fully three miles did those four noble mules keep in advance of the enemy, and then they wheeled squarely off to one side and drew up at a farm-house. And almost as soon did the robber stop also, but his hostile appearance had left him, and a broad grin surmounted his face. Then it popped through our stupid heads that this was another one of those "little jokes." We asked the Colonel what he was so scared about, and added that any man that would get frightened so badly about a little thing was a coward. He didn't say he wasn't frightened, because it happened to pop through his mind about little George Cherrytree and his Washington hatchet, so he merely retorted that we was "another one," and that settled it.

The driver asked us to get out a minute. We got out, and saw what the matter was. One of the hubs of the coach was smoking and sizzling like a furnace, the result of such constant rapid driving. So those hot boxes were still following us. We thought we had left them with the train, but here they were on an Arkansas stage-coach. Half an hour was consumed by the driver and the "robber" in cooling it with water. It turned out that the "robber" was one of the Stage Company's men, sent on ahead for the purpose, when we stopped at the "half-way house," to get fresh mules. We piled in again and on we went. We wondered what next they would be trying. They might run us over a bluff and break our necks yet "just for a little joke."

Twilight was deepening into the darker shades of night, and we were yet five miles from the springs. The driver "licked" the mules and whistled "Susan Jane" as we sped along, and we passengers were beginning to feel pretty tired now. Anticipating this, perhaps, the driver passed a large black bottle down. We declined, the Captain declined, and the Judge and Colonel eyed it longingly, pretty well mixed with suspicion, and declined also. Captain Newmyer and ourselves declined from principle; Colonel Jackson and Judge Collings, too, *declined from principle*; but then we suspect the fear that the driver had "doctored" it with about an ounce of strychnine (for a little joke) was the greatest incentive towards letting it alone. They didn't want any more "little jokes" in theirs—rather wait till they got to Hot Springs and take it "straight." We passed it back to the driver again, thanked him, and told him the Colonel said the article

was too much of a commodity at home; we had come down there to get a drink of pure Hot Springs water, which was *more of a novelty to him*, and had greater charms for us. (Colonel, is this "the unkindest cut of all?")

At about 7.30 o'clock the glimmer of lights in the distance announced the close proximity of the village, and a few minutes later the s.-p.-j.-l.-d.-b.-a.-m.-s.-c. drew up with a whirl in front of the Arlington Hotel. We had reached them at last.

The surprise and astonishment with which we looked upon the city of Hot Springs can scarcely be imagined. Surprise does not express it—*we were astounded*. We had looked to see a little village of perhaps a hundred houses or cabins. We knew its geographical location, with no railroad at all, made it very difficult to reach. We knew that anybody or anything trying to reach it must be dragged over 26 miles of very hilly country, and what was reputed to be the roughest road in the United States. We had tried that, and didn't think very many invalids could survive the task. We had looked for third-class hotels, second-class doctors, and first-class invalids.

We found a city lighted with gas, and supplied with about a dozen better hotels than many Northern cities of twice its size. We found a street railroad *three miles long*, and running upon it were cars that were only excelled by the Wabash avenue line of Chicago. We found a city large enough to support a daily paper, and last, though not least, we found seventy of the happiest editors in the world.

The telegraph had informed them that we were following them, and when we unloaded there was a general hand-shaking all round. To meet so many familiar faces in the Arkansaw backwoods made us feel jolly. As we deposited our "grip-sacks" in the check-room and registered, Col. J. M. Loughborough, the Land Commissioner of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, who had the party in charge, made his way to us, and, introducing himself, pinned a couple of blue ribbons on the lappel of our coats. We had noticed that the rest all wore such. On one was printed "Arkansas Editorial Excursion," and on the other, "Our Guests, Hot Springs, Ark." We were shown to our rooms, and after making our toilet about as bachelors do, were seated to a refreshing supper in the spacious dining-room of the Arlington.

That over, we sauntered out to get a drink from the bubbling springs, which the Colonel termed the "devil's tea-pot." Though wonderful, the springs did not surprise us much, because we had read so much about them that we knew pretty nearly what they were. The hot water boiled up clear and pure, and it was comical to see half a dozen standing round with cups in their hands blowing and drinking it like hot tea. The Colonel "allowed" he drank about a gallon of it, and we didn't say anything, though we wondered had his stomach ever met with such a surprise since he was a minor?

The citizens were going to give a grand "blow-out" that evening in honor of their guests, and right nobly did they succeed. The dining-room of the Arlington was cleared of its tables and supplied with a "rostrum" and seats. Then about half-past eight the room began to fill with the "tone" of the city and the



editors of the North. Speeches of welcome were made and answered, toasts were offered and responded to, and then beautiful programmes of the ball were handed us, and the room cleared to the merry music of the fiddle and the light fantastic toe. Champagne, lemonade and cigars were "set up" in abundance in the wine-room and were liberally patronized. *Maybe* we didn't enjoy ourselves that night at Hot Springs, but I guess we *did*. Tired and sleepy, at one o'clock we dragged the Colonel away from the seductive influences of the ball and wine-rooms, and were soon wrapped in the arms of Morpheus. Thus ended our third day out.

The morning dawned clear and bright, as it did every day during the trip, and as we had left orders to be awakened early, we were up before the sun. We repaired to the bath-house connected with the Arlington, and enjoyed a warm bath with water which flowed direct from one of the springs. It was so hot that it took as much more cold water to reduce it to the proper temperature.

After bath we took a survey of the city in company with the Judge, Colonel and Captain. Hot Springs is built between two rows of hills, that rise to a height of perhaps 200 or 300 feet. Along the inside of these hills the hot water bubbles out in numberless springs of greater or less magnitude. Some of them flow a stream that we should think would fill a pipe six or seven inches in diameter. A few of them spout from the base of the hills, but the majority of them spring from the top or side; by reason of this, water may be had at a great elevation, which is an additional desideratum. The view from the hill-top was inspiring; the serpentine creek, formed by the springs, wound along beneath us in every conceivable direction, and along up these two spurs of hills the street-railroad picked its way, bridging the creek about every 100 yards. So close together are the two rows of hills, that room enough only is allowed for one street and the row of buildings on either hand. On the hill on which we stood had been erected a public bath-house for the use of those too poor to pay for baths at the more "tony" bath-houses below. We walked around this and dropped a quarter into the contribution-box at the door, from which it gets its support. Around all over the hills were tents and rude cabins occupied by the poor who courted the magic influences of the springs. We gazed down upon the hotel, and as we did so a "colored gemman" came out and pounded the gong. We slipped down the hill as best we could and went to breakfast.

It had been announced the evening before that we should be ready to start at eight o'clock A. M. So promptly at that time the caravan of stages and carriages were at the door and we loaded up. Luckily our same party got together in one of the open hacks, along with two or three other parties, one of whom we remember to be John H. Cherry, an attorney and a gentleman, from Little Rock. The programme for that day was to stage to the terminus of the narrow-gauge railroad (17 miles) where the diminutive engine and cars would meet us and convey us to the junction at Malvern. We then were to run south to Arkadelphia, where the citizens would give us a grand barbecue in true Southern style. The caravan rattled along at a good pace, and had it not been for an accident we would all have reached the railroad in good time. The horses

to the coach, in which Dr. Coates, of the Valparaiso *Messenger*, and some others were riding, took fright and ran away. They ran for a considerable distance, the driver keeping them in the road and yelling to the other coaches ahead to clear the track. Three or four of the coaches ahead managed to get out of the way and let the runaway go tearing down the hill-side; but one of them didn't. As he approached this the driver attempted to swing his horses out of the road. He made a semi-success of it, but one of his horses run his foot through the great ponderous wheel of the coach it was about to pass, and the revolution of the wheel snapped the horse's foot square off, only leaving it attached to the leg by a small piece of skin. This threw them into the rail fence that lined the road, and the damaged horse was still further damaged by one of his jaws being ripped open by a fence-rail. The sheriff of Little Rock, who was with the party, put the horse out of its misery by a pistol-shot. An extra team was procured of the farmer into whose fence they had run, and they rigged this stage up with only three horses and drove along. While they were fixing the disabled stage, we climbed out and secured a pocketful of ripe persimmons, the first we had ever seen, and another pocketful of "muscodines," a species of grape with which the country abounds.

Reaching the railroad, with no further accidents, at about one o'clock, we had to wait a half hour before the "diminutive train" made its appearance, but when it did come we wasn't very long in loading up bag and baggage, and the funny little locomotive, with its funny little train of funny little flat cars, loaded up with funny little editors, gave a funny little shriek and started off. We shall never forget our ride over that narrow-gauge railroad. The scenery was picturesque and grand. The road, with its two lines of little blue rails, wound down around the side of the hills in every direction imaginable. The curves were numerous, and frequently so sharp that the whole train would completely double up, and the engineer could easily reach out and procure a chew of tobacco from the rear brakeman. At times the train would gain a frightful speed down some declivity, and the little flat cars, with their wooden benches loaded with human freight, would rock to and fro over the unballasted road-bed, and as an occasional farm-house was passed, the natives could be seen rushing out to brush the flies off the track as the diminutive train rolled on in safety. One hour later we boarded the regular excursion train at Malvern, and immediately steamed off for Arkadelphia, 22 miles distant. We shortly after crossed the Ouachita river, and half-past three o'clock found us at the depot in Arkadelphia, as hungry as a catamount and as happy as a clam. We all itched to get at that barbecue, after having heard so much about it, and the gnawing in our "bread-basket" and visions of savory oxen done to a turn did much to aggravate the matter. A march of half a mile was before us yet, and a couple of citizens led the van to the scene of the slaughter. When nearly there we noticed a peculiar aroma pervading the air. The gentle breezes wafted another snift to our nasal appendage, and we tried to think what could raise such an odor. We had smelled such a "smell" once before in our time and we tried to place it. Oh! yes; we had seen the ruins of Jordan's livery stable after the fire in the morning, a few

years since, in "our town," and the bodies of the roasted horses emitted just such a smell as this. Then somebody in Arkadelphia had lost their livery stable. Our heart was filling with pity for the unfortunate owner and curiosity to see the ruins, when the procession wheeled off into a grove and there was our barbecue. There upon a long table was piled hunks and joints of meat and stacks of bread, and all around it the air was blue with the smell of burned livery stables. The order was given to "lay on, McDuff," etc., and the work began. Some seemed to enjoy it. We tried a piece; it was from the outside, and was salted and peppered so highly, and burned so completely, we gave it up after the first bite. Then we tried another piece. This was from the inside, and was red and raw and didn't have any seasoning to it at all. We didn't like this "a pretty good 'eal" either. We looked down the table, and in front of Sam Winters, of the *Huntington Democrat*, was a leg-bone of the "critter" that had been cooked, and Sam was taking to it like a calf to a pan of milk. It looked like the leg-bone to a horse. How did we know what kind of a "critter" they had barbecued for us? It looked like horse and smelled like burned livery stables, and the leg-bone Sam was taking to looked just like the leg-bone of the horse we had killed that morning in the stage! Ugh! it might be the same horse. We went off and sat under a tree to think, wishing we had a clinch clothes-pin on our nose.

Shortly after our cannibalistic horse-eaters relinquished the table to the colored people, who were waiting round, and started for the train. Again aboard our palace cars, the train puffed out of Arkadelphia, whose good people had tried so hard to please us, and at the same time give us something new and novel. We thank them for their good intentions, however, if we couldn't do them justice; but we still are of the opinion that we like our beef best roasted in an oven.

The limit of the trip was pretty nearly reached, and the object of running the train below Arkadelphia was to show some of the larger cotton-fields. And some magnificent ones were shown, too. Mile after mile of glistening white cotton-fields lay on either hand, and the crop was just ready for picking. The train stopped on a plantation, and we got off and were shown the "ginning" process, which is separating the cotton from the seeds. We satisfied our curiosity in all these regards, and again boarded our train and put back to Arkadelphia for supper.

Reaching this pleasant little town again, we sat down to supper at the railroad eating-house, after which speeches were made back and forth from the citizens to the editors, and from the editors to the citizens in return. As "our crowd" (we mean the original five belated ones) were short on the sleep question, we all repaired to the cars and turned in, leaving our brother quill-drivers to speak as long as they wanted to. We were lulled to sleep by the Colonel's sonorous nose music, and another, our fourth, day out was numbered with the past.

"Nibbs, Nibbs, get up and hear the little birds sing their praises to God!" rang in our ears as the hand of the Colonel shook us to returning consciousness. We arose, and while dressing wondered if our brother quill-drivers had got through speaking yet. From the way they went at it in the evening we thought each man was armed with enough speeches and resolutions to last a dozen

excursions a year, and we went to our *lonely*, and consequently *virtuous*, couch at Arkadelphia, leaving them to offer them as long as they could get anybody to listen to them. We went to the platform and discovered that our train was standing quietly on the side-track; but the gloomy walls of the State Prison, that loomed up to the right on the hill, told us this was Little Rock instead of Arkadelphia. Here was where the Colonel and ourself had resolved to spend the day. We had missed seeing Little Rock by being late, and we decided to spend the day in viewing one of the handsomest cities in the South. The Memphis & Little Rock Railroad and the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad had tendered the craft a free ride over their lines that day, and both had special trains in waiting. The guests could take their choice, to go east or west, which they did, and about eight o'clock both trains steamed out to the right and left, leaving the Colonel and ourself alone on the platform.

We had a number of invitations from hastily-made acquaintances marked down in our note-books, and with them we spent the day very pleasantly driving about the city, viewing the State Capitol, the Penitentiary, the Government Arsenal, *the Robber's Row*, and other points of interest. Little Rock is very beautifully situated high and dry on the south bank of the Arkansas river, which is navigable up to and even above here. The population we should judge to be about 20,000 or 25,000, and the society is the best the nation affords. There are a great number of very tasty residences, with large lawns, that show care and culture, and so many other conveniences that go far towards making a *residence* an agreeable and *pleasant home*. For our drive about the city and suburbs we have to thank Col. E. N. Hill, who tendered us his own carriage and himself as driver. The day was happily spent, and late in the evening we repaired to our temporary home—the train—with naught but kindness and gratitude in our heart for the citizens of Little Rock. We sat and smoked, with the Colonel spinning “yarns,” to a late hour, until the gentle angel hovering o’er us closed our eyes to the pleasures and joys of the fifth day of our pilgrimage.

Nine o'clock next morning we opened our eyes and ears again to the realities of this world; and as we hadn't paid any particular attention to the demands of the “inner-man” since three o'clock the day before, we felt like we should be pleased to open our mouth to some of the substantials as well. We turned over and drew aside the curtain, and the bright sunlight streamed into the berth. The deep rumble of the wheels and the rapidly flitting telegraph poles told us the train was again under way, and we were homeward bound. We climbed out, dressed, and found the Colonel still in the midst of his snores. It was our turn to awaken him now, and bless us, didn't we do it?

Finding Capt. Newmyer, of the Pittsburgh *Advance*, we learned that they had got back into Little Rock about midnight, and that our train started immediately for St. Louis. Examining our watch we found it to be pretty near church time (Sunday), and the railroad guide said it was about a hundred miles yet to breakfast; that was the worst. We could miss church; we had done that many a time, but breakfast, never! Col. Loughborough had arranged that the train should move out of Little Rock about nine o'clock the previous evening, and telegraphed

to Arcadia to have breakfast for us in the morning; but the party that went west got in late, and it threw the whole train behind time. Then breakfast was at least four hours away yet. Heavings! how should we stand it? Captain Newmyer busied himself reading his bible, Judge Collings and Dr. Coates went to sleep again, we studied the railway guide, and the Colonel sat at the window and contented himself by counting the mile-posts and singing "Sweet spirit, hear me swear." He declares to this day that he counted eleven million mile-posts in that four hours' ride; but, dear reader, don't you believe this.

The longest misery has its end, and in regular order Moark, Poplar Bluff, Gad's Hill and Des Arc were passed, and about two o'clock we stopped at the same eating-house that had served us such a good dinner on our down trip, at Arcadia. The same little landlord on whom the Colonel had passed his counterfeit 50 cents, came out and pounded the gong and we answered its summons, (to use a phrase that is more expressive than elegant) in "less'n no time." As we anticipated, the tables were loaded bountifully, and it was no trouble to do justice to the occasion. After dinner a meeting was held on the veranda, and short speeches were made, and resolutions were carried, voting thanks to all for our cordial treatment. This over, we steamed up and on. A short stop was made at Iron Mountain to enable such as desired it to get off and collect a few specimens. Again we moved on, and, with the exception of one or two halts for wood and water, no further stops were made, until about half an hour after dark we drew into the city of St. Louis. Here the Colonel, Dr. Coates and ourself bade adieu to Col. Loughborough and G. W. Hered, the representatives of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, and also to our newly-made yet warm friends, Capt. Newmyer and Judge Collings. We three were to leave St. Louis immediately for Chicago, and we drove at once to the Union Depot. All aboard with baggage checked, and the Illinois Central train crossed the great iron bridge and sped out on the broad prairies. The mantle of Egyptian darkness settled down o'er the earth, the rumble of the wheels, to which we had become accustomed, seemed like music in our ears, and stowed away in our upper berth we dropped off into the unconsciousness of a deep and sweet repose. Thus endeth the sixth day of our journey.

Arriving in Chicago at seven o'clock next morning, we parted with Dr. Coates, who left immediately on the first train for Valparaiso. The Colonel and ourself spent the day in the city, and in the evening left on separate trains for our respective homes—his in Peru, and ours in Plymouth.

We cannot close without saying more than just a hollow "farewell" to our companions *en route*, and also to all the citizens of Hot Springs, Arkadelphia and Little Rock. Long live Arkansas, and we hope she may meet with such an influx of wealth and population as will place her, as she deserves to be, among the first of her sister States. To T. B. Mills & Co. and Col. J. M. Loughborough, G. W. Hered, and all connected with the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, we owe a debt of gratitude that our words may feebly express. They seek immigration for Arkansas; may their labors be crowned with success commensurate with the demands of the State. In particular do we desire to thank

G. W. Hered, of St. Louis; Dr. T. F. Linde and Col. Rector, of Hot Springs; Col. E. N. Hill and John H. Cherry, Esq., of Little Rock. To Judge Collings, Dr. Coates, Capt. Newmyer, and last, though by no means least, Col. J. M. Jackson, "our pard," we say good-bye; and we trust that the time may come when we all may meet on another excursion, if not to "Arkansaw," on a last and long excursion to another and a better world. May the star of hope and happiness ever gleam before you!

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## FROM THE "PERU REPUBLICAN."

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J. M. JACKSON, CORRESPONDENT.

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PERU, October 11, 1875.

According to my promise I sit down to write you an account of my trip with the Arkansas Editorial Excursion.

As your correspondent declined to go at the last moment, the subscriber armed with credentials saying I was a "regular correspondent of the *Peru Daily Times*." I started on the 12.40 train for Indianapolis, Sept. 27. On arriving at the Hooiser capital I found I could not get transportation until eight o'clock, when the Superintendent of the Vandalia road would be in his office. I consequently was delayed until the 1.10 P. M. train. I arrived in St. Louis at 10.30 the same evening—just in time to be about two hours behind the excursion. Finding I could not start earlier than 9.45 the next morning, I went to bed and slept as becometh a man with a quiet conscience. On going to the office of the Superintendent of the Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad, I found Col. Brooke, of Plymouth, Major Collings, of Rockville, Dr. Cook, of Valparaiso, and Parson W. H. Newmyer, of Pittsburgh, Pa., the business editor of the *Pittsburgh Advance*. They were all, like me, behind time. Superintendent A. W. Soper provided us passes, and we went on our way rejoicing. We left the Plum street depot at 9.45 A. M., and proceeded southward, hoping to overtake the excursionists at Malvern, about 50 miles south of Little Rock. The road runs through a rough mountainous country, and at noon we stopped to dinner at Arcadia, Mo. This is a small station near the Iron Mountain and Pilot Knob country. Here we got the best dinner I ever saw at a railroad eating-house. After dinner we moved south through what I think a miserable country. Hills and rocks "til you can't rest." About four o'clock we passed the classic hill of Mount Gad. I will not undertake to describe this place, as most Peruvians know all about "Gad's Hill." While we were still passing through this rough country I took my berth and got a good night's rest, and on awakening in the morning I was informed by the porter that we were still 75 miles north of Little Rock. We

had been delayed during the night by what they called a "hot box." We reached Little Rock, however, in time for breakfast at the fashionable hour of 10 o'clock. Here we found a telegram from Col. Loughborough to "keep our courage up and follow on."

We met a number of army officers here to whom we were introduced, and when we offered to pay for our dinners we were told that "all had been settled." We then went down to Malvern, and found dinner awaiting us—plenty to eat and nothing to pay. After dinner we started for Hot Springs by stage (26 miles) which we made in about five hours. Here we found the excursionists, and a jollier, happier set of fellows I never met. We stopped at the Arlington, a house that for size would be a credit to Indianapolis. There are, I think, 20 hotels, and almost every house is a boarding-house. The town has only one street, and is, I think, about two miles long and 300 feet wide, being built upon Hot Springs creek, which runs down a spur of the Ozark Mountains. This valley is getting to be a favorite resort for invalids, and will undoubtedly, at no distant day, be quite a city. The great drawback to this place is want of title to property. A claim of four miles square, covering the entire village, is in controversy, with little prospect of an early settlement. The people are all squatters, and have no mayor, marshal, or city officers of any kind. The people of this place gave us a warm reception; they kept us in hot water for a few minutes, but I think we felt the better and cleaner for it.

The address of welcome by Col. J. M. Harrell was one of the nicest things I have ever heard, and was responded to by Gen. Pierce on the part of the excursionists. The proceedings wound up with a dance, which was a magnificent affair, judging from the expressions of those who took part.

We were indeed "guests of the village." Hotels, livery stables, everything was free, and the citizens vied with each other in showing us attention.

The springs themselves I cannot describe only by saying they are about 50 in number. The one by the Arlington, I think, would furnish water for all Peru. The water in this spring is too hot to drink rapidly when first dipped, but has no bad effects on the stomach. It is said to be better than ice-water to allay thirst, and from experience I believe it.

On the morning of Oct. 1st we embarked on board of stages, buggies, wagons, and all manner of wheeled conveyances for the terminus of the narrow-gauge railway in course of construction from Malvern to the springs. Arriving at Malvern, we found our train awaiting us; we got aboard and ran down to Arkadelphia, the county seat of Clark county. Here they had roasted an ox and killed the fatted calf. Everything was cold, however, as we were two hours late in getting down.

The programme was for us to run down after dinner to Texarkana, Texas, and we afterwards learned they had made extensive preparation for us, but we found we could not go everywhere we were invited, so after dinner Col. Loughborough proposed that we run down towards the Texas line into the cotton-fields, and return at dark and spend the evening in speech-making, as we had several full of talk. This was carried out, and in the evening speeches were made by the

Ciceros of Arkadelphia, and responded to by Mr. Thomas, of Chicago; Robinson, of Fort Wayne, and others; in fact, I could not stand so much *bloviation*, but took my berth, and awakened at Little Rock next morning. The next day the party divided, one party going east over the Memphis road, and the others west over the Fort Smith road, to examine the coal regions. Mr. Brooke, of Plymouth, and myself remained at Little Rock and took in the city generally.

Little Rock claims a population of 21,000. There are many good business houses and handsome residences, but not so many as one would expect of the State capital. It is situated on a river navigable for steamboats, and with railroads north, south, east and west. The great drawback to this city—and the State, as I think—is the State debt (seven or eight millions) piled up by the carpet-baggers, the most infamous set of thieves that ever cursed any country. To say the people here are willing for Northern men to come down and live among them does not express it; they are anxious, and think that a large emigration from the North is their only hope. They have a country rich in agricultural and mineral wealth, that only lacks the enterprise and capital of the North to develop it into one of the richest States in the Union. I think there can be no doubt that the people of Arkansas are unanimous in their desire to have Northern emigration, and will welcome all who may seek homes among them in that generous and hospitable manner for which Southerners are proverbially and truthfully celebrated. And now I must speak of our journey

#### HOMeward.

About midnight, Saturday, Oct. 3d, we started on our return from Little Rock, consequently about 150 of us did not go to church. We arrived at St. Louis about 6.30 P.M., and at 7.30 left for Chicago via Illinois Central Railway, at which place we arrived in time for breakfast. After visiting the Chicago Exposition and other sights, at eight o'clock in the evening I bade good-night to Maj. C. M. Brooke, who had been our companion during the trip, and came home via Logansport on the Pan-Handle road, and arrived at home Tuesday morning.

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### FROM THE "KOKOMO DEMOCRAT."

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J. N. GRESS, CORRESPONDENT.

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Accepting the invitation of Hon. J. M. Loughborough and T. B. Mills & Co., of Little Rock, as special reporter of the *Democrat*, to join in an editorial excursion from the Northwestern States to Arkansas, we left Kokomo on the 27th of September, and arrived in St. Louis at 2.45 the same day, where we found Messrs. Loughborough and Mills awaiting the arrival of their guests. It is proper right here to tell the *Democrat* readers who these men are, and



## THE OBJECT OF THIS EXCURSION.

Col. Loughborough is the Land Commissioner of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, formerly known as two roads, St. Louis & Iron Mountain, and the old Cairo & Fulton Railroad. This road runs nearly on an air-line from St. Louis to Texarkana (Tex-Ark.), on the boundary line of Texas and Arkansas, from which it derives its name. The road has a land grant embracing about 2,500,000 acres, and covering some of the best lands in the State. Col. T. B. Mills is from Topeka, Kansas, a citizen of Arkansas for the last three years, and now engaged largely in the real estate business. These gentlemen conceived the public-spirited idea of inviting the editors from the Northwestern States to visit Arkansas and write up their impressions of her soil, climate, people, products, mines, etc. Col. Loughborough represents the railroad company, and his efforts met the hearty approval of Hon. Thomas Allen, President. For many years the most false and infamous reports have gone abroad concerning this State, and people looked upon all reports from this source with suspicion. These gentlemen very rightly judged that if the Northern press could become aware of the correct status here, that great good would be accomplished, for the people would believe the reports made by their home editors. Therefore, these gentlemen were no more interested in this excursion than any other citizen of the State of like property interests; but they had the enterprise to spend their money in a cause that they hoped would inure to the benefit of the whole State, taking their chances for being benefited thereby.

## THE START FROM ST. LOUIS.

But to resume. On our arrival in St. Louis we found a large and jolly party of nearly 100 editors and representatives of papers from the States of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Missouri and Kansas. The largest delegation was from Indiana, there being about 20 papers represented, the writer the only one from Kokomo. The train of Pullman palace cars, tendered gratuitously to the "shovers of the quill," left St. Louis at nine o'clock p. m. of the 28th of September, and in their elegant sleeping berths enjoyed a good sleep, awaking about the time the train reached Moark (Mo-Ark.), on the line of Missouri and Arkansas. At eight o'clock the train reached Walnut Ridge, where a good substantial breakfast was served by Mr. Henry Boas, and no cashier appeared to demand the usual "six bits." On southward we rolled at the rate of 20 miles an hour, through a country susceptible of as grand possibilities as any land under the sun. From the time we entered the State we rode through a virgin forest whose wealth of timber is incalculable. Its soil is one vast alluvial "drift," and when the sunlight is let in upon it, and the hand of cultivation has called forth its hidden treasures, it will present one of the best agricultural areas in the Union. Arkansas is emphatically a timber State. Along the line of this road, for a distance of 360 miles, it is almost one continual stretch of forest. True, there are some fine prairie lands, of which we shall speak hereafter.

## AT LITTLE ROCK

We arrived at Little Rock at 2.10 p. m. of the 29th, and were surprised to find at least a hundred carriages, ready to receive us and bear us away to hospitable homes, where we were entertained in the most liberal style of Southern chivalry. Notwithstanding the hotels were all open and free, the citizens would not let them have a single editor; and if there had been a thousand they would have found an ample lodgment in the hearts and homes of this beautiful city. After dinner we were taken in carriages over the city, shown the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce, where are being gathered specimens and products for the great Centennial show. And right here let us say there is no State in the Union that glows with a more perfect blaze of enthusiasm in the coming Centennial than Arkansas. In the Chamber of Commerce we saw apples measuring  $15\frac{1}{2}$  inches and weighing  $24\frac{1}{2}$  ounces, peas measuring 16 inches and weighing 30 ounces, pumpkins weighing 95 pounds, potatoes 8 pounds, and one mammoth cucumber weighing 57 pounds; the finest wheat, oats and grasses we ever saw; oats with heads 22 inches long, timothy heads 10 inches long, and Hungarian millet that would produce eight tons to the acre. Corn was here with stalks 19 feet high, and ears 17 inches long containing 18 rows of corn. Can the world beat it? At night a

## GRAND COMPLIMENTARY BANQUET

was given in Concordia Hall, a very large, beautiful and commodious hall, where 300 sat down to as fine a repast as was ever spread at Delmonico's. The table was adorned with bouquets, and wines, both native and foreign, added their spirit to the occasion. The toasts were typical of the generous feelings shared, seemingly, by every citizen of Arkansas.

We cannot take the time nor space to describe at length the feast and generous attentions of these people. They seem enthused with the idea that the Northern people may know them as they are, and not as the lawless violators of peace and order they have hitherto been painted by the Radical thugs, who, through fraud, ruled this State.

At 12 o'clock, midnight, the banquet terminated, and we repaired to our luxurious sleepers, and were again moved south some 45 miles and awoke at Malvern, where another good breakfast awaited us.

## OVERLAND BY COACH.

After breakfast we embarked on flat cars for the famous Hot Springs, and were taken 10 miles over the narrow-gauge railroad now being built, and which will be completed by Christmas. This road will be 22 miles long and will connect the Springs with the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern. The trip is now made by hacks and four-horse Concord coaches. At the end of this completed part of this narrow-gauge road we found 30 carriages drawn by about 100 horses ready to take us the remaining 15 miles. The country is a wild, romantic, broken region, with steep hills that are far more agreeable to talk and write about than to travel over in a stage coach. But our party, which numbered by

this time about 175, were not to be discomfited by a dusty, jolting ride of three hours' duration. In fact, it was a contrast that gave zest and increased enjoyment to all our after-trips. These hills are covered with primeval forests of oak, hickory, pine and ash, interspersed here and there with beautiful little farms that occupy the fertile valleys. This stretch of country, from Malvern to the Hot Springs, will never be worth much as a farming region, except for fruit and grapes; but its capacity for these cannot be estimated.

#### THE FAMOUS HOT SPRINGS.

At one o'clock P. M. we drove into the famous Baden-Baden of America. Hot Springs, we should judge, has about 3,000 population, and is visited by 10,000 persons annually who come to seek relief from its healing waters. It has one long winding street which follows the sinuosities of Hot Springs creek for about two miles, and upon which nearly all the business is done. There are 60 hot springs, covering not over 40 acres in extent, and the gathered volume of water shows that they discharge nearly 500 gallons of water per minute. There were about 800 visitors at the springs at this time, but the influx of Northern patients does not set in until near November.

Every phase of nervous disease seems to yield to the curative virtues of these springs, while for chronic rheumatism, scrofula, paralysis, mercurial and syphilitic diseases, they are a sure specific. The mountains rise to the height of 600 feet above the valley on either side, and a more charmingly romantic spot is seldom seen. Fifty of the crowd were entertained at the Hot Springs Hotel, 50 at the Arlington, and the balance found open houses and warm hearts at the other hotels and private houses.

#### FASHION AT THE HOTELS.

It was my good fortune to be the guest of the Arlington, the largest and finest house here. It has 130 rooms, cost \$35,000, and sets as fine a table as the Palmer or Grand Pacific of Chicago. The Hot Springs House is next in size, and is one of the best hotels in the Southwest. The Arlington is kept by S. H. Stitt & Co., Col. Rugg being the "Co." The dinner at two o'clock was a repast fit for the gods. The *menu* embraced about 100 dishes, and the wines were of the finest brands. "Green Seal," "Golden Seal," "Verzenay," "Moselle," "Heidsieck," "Imperial," were among the "spiritual blessings" which were showered upon us. Supper was but a repetition of this lavish hospitality. At nine o'clock the grand reception took place in the great dining-hall of the Arlington, and our pen fails to even attempt to paint the brilliant scene. The address of welcome was made by Col. J. M. Harrell, who wore the grey in "the late unpleasantness," and was responded to by Gen. H. A. Pierce, who wore the blue during that time. The speeches were eloquent with good feeling. Resolutions of thanks were offered, and then a grand ball was given. There were about 150 ladies present, and for beauty, elegance of dress and sparkling wit they made us feel as though we were back in old Indiana. The next day we returned to Malvern, went south to Arkadelphia, inspected some fine

## COTTON PLANTATIONS,

had a big "barbecue," with lots of speeches, and returned to Little Rock that night. The next morning the party divided, one-half going over the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad, the others going west over the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad. The hospitalities were still kept up on the same generous scale, and a description of them would be but a repetition. Both of these last named railroads were very generous in their courtesies, and the Fort Smith road, by its Superintendent, Capt. Theo. Hartman, provided their guests with an elegant supper at Russellville. This letter is already too long, and yet not a tithe of the interesting incidents have been told. We must not close, however, without giving you

## THE POLITICAL STATUS.

Arkansas is Democratic by 50,000 majority, and since her people have succeeded in overthrowing the Clayton ring of vampires that have for six years robbed and ruined the State, peace has come down like a benediction, and prosperity marks every phase of her life. Gov. Garland is an able lawyer, and is a wise, conservative Governor. No better man could have been selected for the position. He had no animosities to gratify, and he is leading the State up out of the valley of death into which carpet-bag Radicalism plunged her. She now holds out her hands to all the world, and asks them to seek her genial clime, her fertile soil, and share in the glorious prospects of her future. The entire excursion party is perfectly enthusiastic over the State, the people, the climate, soil and productions.

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FROM THE "HUNTINGTON HERALD."

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U. D. COLE, CORRESPONDENT.

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At nine o'clock on the evening of Tuesday, Sept. 28th, we proceeded to the Union Depot, St. Louis, where the enterprising managers of the excursion had provided for the editors a train of magnificent Pullman cars belonging to the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad. Each individual took a berth, which he retained throughout the trip.

We soon left the city far behind, with all its varied and conflicting interests, its rushing business, its teeming population, its factories, shops, palatial residences and splendid public buildings. Our course lay many miles close along the banks of the broad Mississippi, and to one looking out of the car window into the dim light, it seemed almost certain that we must soon rush into the deep waters rolling noiselessly so near us. But such reflections gradually gave

way to a sense of security as we smoothly and swiftly proceeded. The bright lights of the furnaces at Carondelet attracted attention momentarily, then the unbroken forests of Southeastern Missouri began to pass dimly before the eye, and at last, lulled by the gentle motion of the train, each traveler slowly resigned himself to balmy sleep,

“Tired nature’s sweet restorer.”

Daylight found us at the verge of Arkansas. And here it may be well to remark that all natives, residents of, and travelers to that State pronounce the word *Ar-kan-saw*. Usage, at least, must make it the preferable pronunciation, and to many it has the superior euphony

#### RAILROADS.

By consulting a map the reader will observe that the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad starts in at the northeastern corner of the State, crosses the entire State, and passes out at the southwest corner. This splendid road has been opened only about three years in its entire length. It forms the main artery of the Arkansas railroad system, all other roads being in a certain sense tributary to it. It is abundantly equipped, and is under most efficient management. The Government made it a donation of 2,000,000 acres of land in the State of Arkansas, most of which lies directly on the line, and comprises some of the best agricultural and mineral lands in the State. The Company is selling their lands at prices ranging from \$2 to \$10 per acre, on long time and low interest.

The next most important railroad line is that running from Memphis, on the east side, to Fort Smith, on the west side of the State. This crosses the Iron Mountain road at Little Rock. Other railways have been projected and work done on some of them. But it is probable that few more roads will be completed before emigration has turned its tide into the State and thus supplied a population and business sufficient to insure a profitable investment.

I should not fail, however, to refer to the Hot Springs Railroad, a narrow-gauge road running from Malvern, a station on the Iron Mountain line, westward to the famous Hot Springs. This road is now running trains nine miles out from Malvern, and it is expected that the entire line will be completed in a few months. We had long had great curiosity to see a narrow-gauge railroad, in order to judge of its capacity and see what its appearance might be; that curiosity was fully gratified. The road is to be some 25 miles long. Its course lies in a mountainous region, but by following streams and valleys much heavy grading has been avoided. We were informed that the contract for grading the road and laying down the ties was let at \$65,000; less than \$3,000 per mile, in a very rough country. The track is about three feet wide, and the engine and cars are proportionately less than on ordinary roads. The managers had provided a train of flat cars for our accommodation, on which we rode to the end of the track, and, so far as speed and safety were concerned, we discovered no difference between this and other railways. The cheapness of this kind of railroad, and its efficiency for all practical work, make their early construction

throughout the country a certainty. There is no reason why there should not be a general system of narrow-gauge roads connecting all the more important towns with each other. Their cost does not greatly exceed that of gravel roads, while their usefulness is infinitely greater.

The Hot Springs road is a private enterprise, Mr. Joseph Reynolds, of Chicago, having undertaken its construction with his own private means. It will no doubt prove a profitable investment to him, besides being of inestimable value to the country through which it passes.

We entered Arkansas at the northeast corner. The village at the Missouri line bears the barbarous title of Moark—a contraction of the words Missouri and Arkansas. At the southwest corner we find Texarkana, composed of Texas and Arkansas, presenting a beautiful example of the adaptation of means to the end.

In our journeyings we had abundant opportunity to investigate the quantity and quality of the

#### TIMBER

of the State. The northern half is covered with a heavy forest, composed of oak, ash, cypress, gum, hickory, pine and some walnut trees. The southern half contains prairies in the eastern part, interspersed with fine groves, and the western part is all timber. A new tree to us is the bois d'arc, somewhat resembling hickory in its qualities, which is found in the southwest. The other varieties are similar to those of the northern half of the State. In quantity of timber it seems the State does not differ much from the heavily timbered sections of Indiana. There appears to be about the same number of large trees to the acre as we have here, except in the pine regions, where an estimate of 100 saw trees to the acre would, perhaps, not be an exaggeration. The pine is confined to the hill country, which comprises almost the entire western half of the State. This region is penetrated by the Hot Springs, Little Rock & Fort Smith and Iron Mountain Railroads, and by several navigable rivers, including the Arkansas, Ouachita and Red. In the eastern half of the State are the Iron Mountain and Memphis & Little Rock Railroads, and the Mississippi, Arkansas, White, St. Francis, Cache and Salina rivers. With such means of transportation there will be no difficulty in reaching a market with all the timber that even Arkansas can furnish.

In giving such information as we could gather regarding the State, we naturally turn from timber to the

#### AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

To state the case briefly, they raise everything in Arkansas that we can raise in the North, and cotton in addition. Corn yields from 40 to 60 bushels per acre, wheat 20 to 30 bushels, potatoes 128 bushels, tobacco 666 pounds, sweet potatoes 150 bushels, and hay  $1\frac{1}{2}$  tons. The soil is generally light and sandy, the black alluvial deposits prevailing along all the streams and on the prairies. The cotton crop, however, is the thing of greatest importance. It used to be claimed that "cotton was king," and in truth the saying was almost correct so far as agricultural productions are concerned. No crop raised in the South yields so

fine a return, and none finds so sure and speedy a market. From this fact arose a system of agriculture which, while it yielded handsome profits, tended to narrow the energies of the people and retard the development of their resources. I was informed by a wealthy old planter at Arkadelphia that their system before the war was to raise little grain, but great quantities of cotton; to invest the proceeds of their crop in "niggers," and thus raise more cotton and buy still more "niggers." He said they did not allow non-slaveholders to settle in the country. "But now," said he, "we see the folly of that course, and many of us are turning our attention to grains."

The best cotton-lands in Arkansas are south of the Memphis & Fort Smith Railroad, and they yield on an average one bale to the acre. A bale of cotton generally contains 500 pounds, and is this year worth \$62.50 at the gin. One man can cultivate 10 acres of cotton readily, besides raising some corn.

The cotton crop of the State for 1871, which is the latest report at hand, amounted to nearly \$30,000,000. With the introduction of better machinery and more systematic labor, the cotton crop of Arkansas must grow to enormous proportions.

The grass-raising interest of the State is fast developing. On the prairies east of Little Rock two and a half tons of timothy hay to the acre have been raised by ex-Governor Hadley. In conversation with him, he detailed an experiment he had made with four acres of timothy, resulting in 10 tons of hay worth \$20 per ton. He is this year engaged in cutting hay on the prairies, which yields from the spontaneous growth one ton to the acre, on which he nets \$7 per ton, having no trouble with it except to cut and bale it. The Governor is originally from New York, but has been in Arkansas 15 years. Like the ancient Cincinnatus, he has retired from politics to the quiet of farm life, and is introducing fine stock into the State and generally taking care of his "patch," consisting of 2,500 acres of land.

#### ALL KINDS OF FRUIT

grow luxuriantly in Arkansas. At various points in the State we were shown specimens of apples, pears, peaches, grapes, plums, etc. One pear weighed two pounds three ounces, and several apples of two pounds were shown us. On the mountains between Hot Springs and Malvern we made a personal inspection of an orchard, and obtained a hatful of peaches and fine rambo apples. The proprietor, who had the veritable house of the "Arkansaw Traveler," on being presented with a quarter, gave us the freedom of his orchard and also of a specially fine collection which was stored in a box under his pole-bed. We departed fully convinced of the fruitfulness of Arkansas.

#### STOCK-RAISING

is a branch of farming industry which can be carried on in this State most successfully. Cattle can live all the year on the pasturage, and require no other feeding. A species of cane grows in the forests and on the low lands, which is said to be extremely nutritious and wholesome, and of which the cattle are very fond. This supplies them with abundant food, and may be cultivated to supply

them after the ranges are all occupied. I was informed, by a gentleman at Forrest City, of a farmer who had 300 three-year-old cattle that had not cost him to exceed \$2 per head, and this was expended for salt and some little herding; they had grown up on the prairie and in the river bottoms. I thought it was no wonder the Southern farmers became lazy, since they could make a living so easily. If the fine stockers of the North were introduced, and care given to the growth and improvement of cattle, Arkansas would soon rank with the first States of the Union in that branch of farming enterprise.

#### THE CLIMATE

of this State is mild and salubrious. No better evidence of this is needed than the style of the houses in the country. Underpinning seems to be unknown, and very few houses are plastered. Of course such habitations would not answer in a cold climate. The average temperature at Little Rock for the months of December, January and February is 43 deg. 3 min. Think of that, reader, next January, when your thermometer touches 20 deg. below zero. In the summer months—June, July and August—the mean temperature at Little Rock is 79 deg. 1 min. Plowing may be done every month in the year, we were informed, while farm planting generally commences in March. Great advantage must accrue to the husbandman in having so long a time to cultivate and save his crops.

#### THE LANDS

of Arkansas are yet very cheap. Although the State has been admitted to the Union since 1836, it is still comparatively unpopulated; nothing strikes the traveler more forcibly than the unsettled condition of the State. The counties average probably 5,000 inhabitants, scattered over wide extents of country. But little of the land is cultivated, millions of acres being wholly unoccupied and waiting for settlers. Large tracts have been held by men whose incomes did not enable them even to pay taxes, as their lands produced them nothing. They were emphatically "land-poor," and many of them have allowed their lands to go back to the State. Prices now range from \$2 to \$10; the best kind of timber lands can be bought for \$2, while the prairies generally average somewhat higher. The time for such bargains is, however, rapidly passing. As the tide of immigration turns towards the State, prices must rapidly advance, and some choice lands will rate there as high as in the well-settled States now.

#### THE MINERALS

of Arkansas are destined to become enormously valuable. Coal and iron abound among the hills of the west and northwestern parts, and are in such close proximity as to render manufacturing in the highest degree profitable. The coal-fields embrace an estimated area of 12,000 square miles, and the beds are from four to nine feet in thickness. Such a supply can probably never be exhausted; while, from the ease of mining and the ready means of transportation by the numerous navigable rivers and railroads, the exportation of coal must become a most profitable business. In quality the coal of Arkansas is claimed to be fully equal to that of Pennsylvania or the far-famed manufacturing coal of this State.



Lead, zinc, salt, marble, whet and hone stone, limestone, slate and other valuable minerals and rock formations are found in great abundance.

A subject of interest to immigrants is that of

#### TAXES.

Official reports show that a great majority of the counties have very light indebtedness, and some of them none at all. Property is rated low, and a law provides that State assessments shall not in any one year exceed one per cent. I was informed that the total taxation for State and county purposes does not exceed 25 mills on the dollar of valuation. At present taxes are not high; what they may be hereafter depends, of course, upon the nature of the improvements to be made and the economy of the officials.

Doubts are sometimes expressed concerning the state of society and the

#### TEMPER OF THE PEOPLE.

So far as we could discover, the people of the State are now entirely peaceable and law-abiding. The generally conceived idea of an Arkansian is a tall, raw-boned, long-haired genius, dressed in brown homespun, and equipped with a six-foot rifle, a navy revolver and a bowie-knife. Although we looked for him, our search was in vain, at least so far as the deadly weapons were concerned. The time was when the prevailing opinion was correct; but many of the old customs have passed away, and carrying arms and deadly affrays have gone with them. The people of the State are fully aroused to the importance of having their waste lands settled up. They perceive that they must induce immigration to their State. Population is their want. Hence their policy and conduct has changed, and I have reason to believe that every man who goes there to peaceably build up his own fortune, and make himself a home, will be most cordially received by both old and new residents. Indeed, it will not be long before the new residents will outnumber the old. Even now the population is largely composed of people who have comparatively recently settled in the State.

Throughout our journey we were received in the most hospitable and friendly manner, and the people vied with each other in assuring us of their good will, and their desire that Northern men would come and settle among them. Especially strong were these manifestations among the old inhabitants—those who went into the rebellion and did their utmost to establish the Southern Confederacy. We met many of their leaders, and they were all of one mind on this subject.

The State of Arkansas offers many more inducements to emigrants than can be enumerated here. Chief among them is the cheapness of the lands. A forty-acre tract in this county will buy a half section there, of just as good land, and equally well timbered. The rise in the value of real estate there must be rapid. Public attention is now being fast turned in that direction, and a few years will see a great change in prices. Nevertheless, I would not urge any man to sell here on my statement alone. Let every one go and see for himself. The country is its own recommendation.

## THE TOWNS

of the State are objects of no less interest than the country. Arkansas does not possess such thriving villages and towns as are scattered so thickly throughout the North. The average county seat contains about 500 inhabitants, and the improvements of the village are proportioned to the population. In fact, the whole State is new and undeveloped. The most important town is

## LITTLE ROCK,

situated very near the centre of the State, on the Arkansas river, and at the junction of three important railroads. At the close of the war it had 3,000 inhabitants; its present population is probably 15,000 strong. As a commercial and manufacturing city it must, at no distant day, become of very great importance. In point of geographical advantages it is superior to Indianapolis, in that it has a much more extensive territory to deal with. The Arkansas river is navigable for large boats at all times of the year, and the railroads in every direction furnish the most ample means of transportation. These advantages, properly improved, will make it the equal of Indianapolis, with which it is often compared. Many Northern people have already settled there, and are giving the place somewhat of the activity they have been accustomed to. Real estate is comparatively cheap as yet. The usual Protestant churches are represented here, as well as the Catholic, and public schools are already provided.

The General Government has here a splendid park, containing several ancient-looking brick buildings, in which are quartered a detachment of regular troops. Major Wainwright, in command, kindly showed us the grounds and buildings, while Major Rosencranz, a Swedish nobleman, who distinguished himself in our late war on Gen. Meade's staff, regaled us with the story of Totten's surrender of Little Rock to the rebels, and his subsequent disgraceful career. All this in broken English, but with the most kindly effort to please. These gentlemen explained to us, as we took a view of the country from the top of the building, that Little Rock received its name from the comparatively small rock on which the city is situated; while Big Rock, which appeared to be a mountain to us, was visible several miles distant to the north. The view from the top of the Arsenal was truly enchanting. Mountains, plains and the Arkansas river stretching away to the east and north, its clear waters reflecting the setting sun, the city beneath us, the cotton-fields and the green forests, all combined to make the scene one of beauty long to be remembered.

While in Little Rock Col. Winter (everybody in Arkansas has a title, and none are less than Colonel) and myself were the guests of Judge Wilshire. The Judge went to Arkansas as the Colonel of an Illinois regiment. After the war he remained there, and his good qualities have secured him promotion to the Supreme Bench of that State and now to Congress. He is a whole-souled, generous man, meriting his success, and is doing good work for his State in Congress. His speciality is cheap transportation, which he conceives will be secured by improving the navigation of their rivers.

On the evening of our arrival the citizens of Little Rock tendered the editors a grand banquet. Many of the leading men of the State were present, and all joined heartily in welcoming the Northern visitors. Speeches were made by many, great quantities of eatables disappeared, and occasionally somebody was seen to look into a wine-glass; but all remained duly sober, though gay.

The banquet over, we returned to our berths on the train, and were soon on the way to

#### HOT SPRINGS.

This town was reached at two o'clock P. M., September 29th, after a most interesting ride of 20 miles in coaches over mountain roads. The springs, from which the town takes its name, are truly most wonderful. There are over 50 of them, the waters varying in degrees of heat from 100 to 150 degrees Fahrenheit. Eggs may be boiled in the springs in the usual three minutes, and the water is too hot to bear the hand in. The waters are drank warm, and used for bathing, and are said to produce many astonishing cures. They are prescribed for all nervous complaints, neuralgia, rheumatism and urinal disorders; but are on no account permitted to persons with pulmonary diseases. Many thousands of invalids visit the springs annually, notwithstanding the hardships of the mountain roads—a difficulty which fortunately is soon to be removed by the completion of the narrow-gauge railroad. Hundreds of poor wretches drag themselves on foot to these fountains of life, and once there, live by begging of their more fortunate fellow-sufferers, while their diseases are healed by bathing and drinking the waters. Seeing these springs, one can understand how the afflicted sought the pool of Siloam, and waited for the moving of the waters, into which they were thrust at the moment the angel's presence gave the signal. One of the springs here boils up every few minutes, the water coming up in sparkling bubbles, giving forth heat and vapor like steam. Thus we understand what was meant by "the moving of the waters." It was easy for the credulous and superstitious people to think an angel visited a place so full of good to suffering mankind.

The village of Hot Springs is situated in a valley scarcely 50 yards wide. It has but one street, for the excellent reason that there is no room for more. Very high hills rise abruptly over the town on all sides, giving it the appearance, as we imagined, of a Swiss or Italian village. Certainly the natural beauty of the location cannot be surpassed. Splendid hotels and boarding-houses abound, and every accommodation is supplied to the afflicted.

At present the ownership of the springs is in dispute, the General Government being supposed to have the best title. The question will be settled in the United States Supreme Court, it is hoped, this winter. If the Government owns the property, it is to be desired that the water of these wonderful springs may be made free to all, under proper regulations. A gift of nature, capable of being made so beneficial to mankind, ought, if possible, to be so controlled that all the afflicted may enjoy its salutary effects. Nor should a few persons be permitted to reap a harvest of gold from the sale of that which should be donated to all.

The people of Hot Springs, like those of all the other towns we visited, were most hospitable and kind. They entertained the whole party of visitors in the most generous manner, and gave every assurance of a hearty welcome to all Northern people who would come and live among them. We had the good fortune to be quartered with Mr. A. B. Smith, of the Guinn House, whom we can most heartily recommend to all visitors to the springs. Mr. Smith is building a hotel at a cost of \$30,000, which promises to be the finest in the valley.

Leaving the springs with many most pleasant impressions of the place and the people, we returned to Malvern, the nearest station on the Iron Mountain road, and were rapidly carried thence to

#### ARKADELPHIA,

the county seat of Clark, the third county southwest of Little Rock. This is an important town, containing some 2,000 inhabitants, and is the trading centre of a large extent of country. The lands here are among the richest of the State, and are especially adapted to corn and cotton. The best improved farms can be had for \$10 per acre, while unimproved lands are plenty at \$2. We visited the corn and cotton fields. To many of the party growing cotton was a novelty, and the sight inspired them with enthusiasm. Numbers rushed into the fields, and nothing less than the largest stock would satisfy them. It is doubtful whether any of the stocks there pulled up ever reached the North. Forty bushels of corn and one bale of cotton is the average yield per acre of land here.

The excursion party was entertained at Arkadelphia with a barbecue in the grove near the town, and speeches by various gentlemen, both from the North and South, occupied several hours.

Leaving this place, we returned to Little Rock, where our party divided, part going west on the Fort Smith road, the rest taking the eastern route toward Memphis. Preferring the latter course, we passed through the counties of Pulaski, Lonoke, Prairie, Monroe and St. Francis. This is mostly a prairie country, and appeared to be the best part of the State. It is only of late years that the value of the prairies has been understood, the natives supposing that they produce nothing but grass. This delusion has been dispelled, and thriving towns are now springing up along the railroad, and the land is being rapidly purchased for farms. This will undoubtedly be the garden of Arkansas, the rich prairies affording most ample inducements for raising corn, wheat, cotton, fruit and cattle.

The principal villages along our route were Lonoke, in the county of same name; Carlisle and Devall's Bluff, in Prairie county; and Forrest City, in St. Francis. Other small places are scattered along the road, and all of them are growing quite rapidly. Carlisle is the residence of ex-Gov. Hadley, who has a splendid farm of 2,500 acres, and is engaged in raising stock and cutting hay.

Devall's Bluff, on White river, was a place of note during the war, and it is said that Union soldiers here were the first to demonstrate the value of the prairie grass.

Forrest City is a flourishing little town with a most promising future. A number of Northern men have engaged in business here, prominent among whom is Mr. A. B. Avery, and all have been very successful.

The principal towns in the northern part of the State through which we passed were Newport, in Jackson, and Judsonia in White counties. Both are small but promising villages. The latter is the seat of Judsonia College, a Baptist institution of learning, which is in a flourishing condition and gives promise of great usefulness to the State.

Returning from Forrest City, we left Little Rock on our return North on Sunday morning, Oct. 3d, and reached St. Louis the same evening. Crossing the broad prairies of Illinois the next day, we reached Indianapolis, and thence came home on Tuesday, the 5th. So ended the Editorial Excursion to Arkansas, one of the most enjoyable of the many trips taken by the fraternity of late years.

We greatly enjoyed the short acquaintance and companionship of the friendly quill-drivers. They numbered about 100, and represented many of the leading papers of the Northwest. Among those whom we were more particularly associated with, and whom we shall remember with pleasure, were Hon. Jacob Stottler, of the *News*, Emporia, Kan.; W. J. Craig, of the *Bluffton Banner*; E. B. McPherson, of the *Wabash Plaindealer*; S. F. Winter, of the *Huntington Democrat*; Col. P. S. Parks, of the *Martinsville Republican*; S. S. Jack, of the *Tribune*, Decatur, Ill.; and Chas. Jonas, of the *Sclavie* (the oldest Bohemian paper in the United States), Racine, Wis.

Mr. T. B. Mills and Hon. J. M. Loughborough, of Little Rock, were unremitting in their efforts to make the excursion successful and pleasant, and to them we refer all who desire further information regarding the railroad and other lands of Arkansas.

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## FROM THE "MARTINSVILLE REPUBLICAN."

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P. S. PARKS, CORRESPONDENT.

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At the invitation of the officers of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad Company, and T. B. Mills & Co., publishers of the *Spirit of Arkansas*, a small delegation of members of the press met at Indianapolis on the evening of September 27th, and boarding the magnificent cars of the old and popular Vandalia line, were speedily whirled toward the metropolis of the Southwest. After a comfortable night's rest, we found ourselves approaching St. Louis, over the magnificent bridge which spans the Mississippi at that city. Here we were joined by others on the same mission, and the day was profitably spent in sight-seeing.

St. Louis is truly a great and wonderful place. It has none of the flash and dash of Chicago, but is substantial in all its appointments. In the evening of the 28th we left the city on a train of Pullman palace cars, over the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad. We breakfasted at Walnut Ridge, in Clayton county, Arkansas. Our next stop was at Judsonia, the seat of the Baptist University, which is said to be in a flourishing condition. Here a banner was flung to the breeze, upon which was inscribed: "Welcome—The pen is mightier than the sword," to which four-fifths of the delegation were prepared to respond had time been allowed. The country through Arkansas, so far as seen from the railroad, is high rolling clay land, with a wilderness of timber, principally oak, gum and hickory. The settlements are few and far between; but we were informed that this state of affairs arose from the fact that the road was thus located in order to get the greatest amount of land along the route, and that a few miles back, on each side, the country was thickly settled.

The party arrived at Little Rock about one P. M., and was met at the depot by a delegation of citizens in carriages, who took us under their protection to their respective homes. We had the good fortune to be assigned to Mr. J. N. Smithee, Commissioner of Immigration and State Lands, at whose pleasant residence we were welcomed with all the cordiality of Southern hospitality. Mr. Smithee is a gentleman to the manor born, an old editor, and from his long familiarity with the workings of his office, has a fund of information for all those desiring to investigate the resources of the State. After a superb dinner, Mr. Smithee took us all over the city and several miles in the country, pointing out to us places of interest, such as the U. S. Arsenal, National Cemetery, Blind Asylum, Penitentiary, Deaf and Dumb Asylum, State House, churches, etc. We were shown, near the city, as fine cotton as grows, just ready for picking, which was raised by convict labor. Some of it had reached an altitude of seven feet, and was rated at two bales per acre. Little Rock is a beautiful city of some 30,000 inhabitants, situated on a commanding bluff on the right bank of the Arkansas river, and takes its name from a small rock at the landing, in contradistinction to a larger one a little higher up the stream. The people seem to be full of energy. The surrounding country is rich. The climate is the finest on the continent, with unexceptional water and railroad facilities. It is plain to be seen that Little Rock will be one of the largest and most flourishing cities of the great Southwest at no very remote future. A complimentary banquet was given to the delegation by the citizens at Concordia Hall, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion. Col. Loughborough presided, and Gen. Newton made the initial speech. It was full of words of welcome and patriotic allusions. He was followed by other residents of the city, and responses were made by several of the delegation, until the hall rang with eloquence; in fact, wine, wit and wisdom ruled the hour, interspersed with music and other gastronomic (no pun) displays worthy of the superb "lay-out." At an early hour the *full* delegation sought their respective couches on the train, destined for Malvern, some 40 miles south. Here we were transferred to a train of narrow-gauge cars, which took us nine miles into the wilderness, where we

were met by a miscellaneous collection of vehicles, ranging from the old-fashioned stage coach to the common road wagon, and driven to Hot Springs, a distance of 16 miles, over about the worst road in America.

Arriving at the springs, our bruises were speedily forgotten by a warm bath and a hearty welcome from the citizens of the town. This place constitutes one of the wonders of the world. The town, containing about 3,000 inhabitants, has but one street, and is situated in a valley between two spurs of the Ozark mountains. The hot springs issue forth from the western slope, elevated some 1,400 feet above the level of the sea; the most of them from 50 to 100 feet above the valley, while a few are near the margin of the creek and several within its bed. There are 58 springs, varying in temperature from 93 deg. to 150 deg. Fahr. Several of these will cook an egg in 15 minutes, or scald a hog. They make a natural discharge of 335 gallons per minute. The life-giving qualities of these waters have been famous for years. They are particularly efficacious in the treatment of gout, chronic rheumatism, contraction of the joints, syphilis, neuralgia, paralysis, diseases of the skin, functional diseases of the uterus, and chronic poisoning by metals, but they are positively injurious in affections of the heart or brain or dropsies of the lungs. Neat bath-houses are numerous, where hot and cold water can be served to suit the bather, besides a number of mud-baths, which are said to be equally beneficial. All the water which comes from the mountain on the east side is hot, while all from that on the west side is cold. This hot water is drank in large quantities by invalids in connection with the bath, and is said to quench the thirst better than cold water. It is proper to add, however, that it takes some time for the invalid to become educated in taking "his'n hot." We made the experiment, and came near heaving Jonah on two spoonfuls. That was doubtless the case, because the water is entirely tasteless and inodorous. The buildings of the town are not very pretentious, although it is said to be three miles long by 300 yards wide. This state of affairs does not arise from supposititious earthquakes, but because the property embracing the springs is in dispute, three distinct parties claiming the land as against the United States.

Our stay was wound up by magnificent hops at the Arlington Hotel and Hot Springs House, and after a good night's rest we were off for Malvern and down the road to Arkadelphia, where a huge old-fashioned barbecue awaited us. This is a promising town of about 1,200 inhabitants, and is situated in a beautiful and fertile country. The manner in which the hungry excursionists tackled the provender so generously provided was astonishing. Back again to Little Rock, where our party separated, a portion going down the river toward Memphis, and the remainder journeying up toward Fort Smith. On Sunday morning the party is again united, and we start for our homes. By this arrangement the portion of the road we passed over at night is traversed in daylight. Among the noted places thus seen were Gad's Hill, where a brutal robbery of a train and the murder of the engineer in charge occurred some months ago, and the Iron Mountain, another one of the wonders of the world. We arrive at St. Louis at seven P.M. on Sunday and at Indianapolis at four A.M. on Monday, having been on the wing

one entire week without an accident or jar to mar the pleasure of one of the most enjoyable excursions of the season. Arkansas (pronounced Arkahsaw by the natives) is one of the best favored States of the Union. It lies between the parallels 33 deg. and 36 deg. 30 min. north latitude, and extends through five degrees of longitude, giving it one of the most salubrious climates on the continent. The vernal mean at Little Rock for 1871 was 72 deg.; summer mean, 80 deg.; autumn mean, 50 deg.; and winter mean, 50 deg.

Arkansas is abundantly supplied with water. Besides innumerable springs and small streams, she has more than her share of navigable streams—the Mississippi, St. Francis, White, Black, Arkansas, Ouachita (pronounced Washita), and Red rivers. Of the 73 counties in the State, 51 are watered by navigable streams, thus affording a navigable highway within the State of 3,000 miles. Her lands are diversified into lofty mountains, elevated plateaus, rolling prairies and level bottoms. She is, perhaps, the best timbered State in the Union—embracing oak of all kinds, hickory, walnut, cedar, pine, locust, cypress, pecan, beech, poplar, ash, plum, cottonwood, sycamore, gum and hemlock. The hard wood, such as oak, hickory, &c., is found in the northern part of the State; while pine, hemlock, &c., prevail in the southern.

In regard to minerals, it is claimed that immense fields of coal abound; while limestone, slate, whetstone rock, lead, copper, zinc, manganesé, gypsum, marl, fire, pipe and potters' clay are known to exist in paying quantities. Little, however, has been done in mining, but with proper energy and capital, Arkansas may yet be known as a great mineral region. It is her agricultural resources upon which her people rely. In the way of growing articles of food, it is asserted that Arkansas can produce all the cereals from Michigan to the tropics. In textile fabrics, they have cotton, wool, hemp, jute and flax—cotton being king. The average cash value per acre in 1871 was: Corn, \$25.44; wheat, \$14.04; rye, \$18.20; oats, \$14.63; cotton, \$60; potatoes, \$116.23; hay, \$22.50; tobacco, \$101.89. Besides being the home of the grape, the State is peculiarly adapted to fruits, such as apples, pears, peaches, plums, apricots, cherries, nectarines and berries of all kinds. For stock-raising the country cannot be excelled. The immense amount of natural pasturage affords nutriment to stock the year round—beeves being killed in the winter, direct from the bottoms and cane-brakes.

The system of public schools is still in its infancy; but ample provisions are made by law for their maintenance. The constitution requires that "the General Assembly shall provide by law that every child of sufficient mental and physical ability shall attend the public schools during the period between the ages of five and eighteen years, for a term equivalent to three years, unless educated by other means." It is also provided that white and colored children shall be educated in separate schools. From a circular issued by the Commissioner of Immigration and State Lands, we learn that the State had on the 11th of March, 1875, under her control and most of it for disposal, the following land:



	ACRES.
Swamp and overflowed.....	29,404
Saline.....	16,204
Internal improvement .....	195,474
Saline lands.....	26,035
Real estate bank.....	8,753
Forfeited for taxes .....	1,034,398
Total.....	1,307,268

And in addition, the following will be in her possession :

Unconfirmed swamp.....	1,000,000
Unconfirmed seminary .....	6,233
Unconfirmed internal improvement.....	119
Swamp land claimed by Mississippi, Ouachita and Red River Railroad.....	275,600
Making a grand total of.....	2,589,210

This is in addition to the lands yearly forfeited for taxes, and the 16th section lands donated by Congress for school purposes. As a rule, these lands are all susceptible of cultivation—many of them being the finest lands in the State. The swamp lands are sold at \$2 per acre, and the internal improvement, saline and seminary lands at \$3 per acre cash.

The school lands sell for \$2, on a credit of eight years, with 10 per cent. interest, payable in advance, only one-fourth of the purchase-money being required to be paid down. The forfeited lands are disposed of on payment of the taxes due, or donated to actual settlers. Every head of a family is entitled to 160 acres, and to an additional 160 acres for his minor children. The applicant must be a *bona fide* citizen of the State, and must reside upon and cultivate three acres of land, or in lieu of such residence, must, within 18 months, place, or cause to be placed, in readiness for cultivation five acres, before a certificate shall issue to him. Payment for lands of the State may be made in the paper of the State. Capital exceeding \$2,000 invested in manufacturing or mining is exempted from taxation for seven years, from October 30th, 1874, and the law of the State exempts 160 acres of land and \$2,000 of personal property from taxes. There are also over 7,000,000 acres of Government land in the State subject to a homestead of 160 acres.

In addition, various grants of land have been made to railroad companies. The most prominent of these is the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad Company. This company owns 2,500,000 acres of fine agricultural, stock-raising, fruit-growing and timbered land, situated in alternate sections on each side of the road, and embracing every variety of soil, climate and productions to be found in Arkansas. The title to these lands comes directly from the Government, and will be conveyed to purchasers free from incumbrance. The terms are as follows: On 10 years' time, at the rate of six per cent. interest per annum. First payment at time of purchase will be the interest on the whole amount of purchase-money for first year. Second payment at the beginning of second year will be the interest on the whole amount of purchase-money for second year. Third payment at the beginning of third year will be, first, one-ninth of the purchase-

money; second, the interest on the remainder of the purchase-money for that year, and so on; at the beginning of each succeeding year, one-ninth of the whole purchase-money, and the interest on the remainder thereof for one year, until all is paid, making 10 years in all. Terms No. 2: One-fourth of the purchase-money, and interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum on the remainder for one year, at time of purchase; the balance in one, two and three years, with interest at same rate, payable annually in advance. Terms No. 3: All the purchase-money at the time of the purchase. To those purchasing on terms No. 2, a discount of 10 per cent., and those purchasing on terms No. 3 a discount of 20 per cent. from the price of the land.

Round trip tickets over this road to any place in Arkansas, with the privilege of stopping off at any point, will be sold to land explorers at greatly reduced rates, by applying at the company's office, northwest corner of Fifth and Market streets, St. Louis, Mo., or to J. M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner, Little Rock, Ark. The citizens of Arkansas with whom we came in contact were pleasant and polite, and each one seemed to vie with the other in showing us the resources and advantages of their wonderful State. They say that their domestic difficulties are permanently settled, and what they want is Northern energy and capital. To any persons, with or without capital, seeking a new home, we can cheerfully recommend Arkansas as the acme of their hopes and the realization of their dreams.

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## FROM THE "WABASH FREE TRADER."

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J. C. RIDGWAY, CORRESPONDENT.

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LITTLE ROCK, October 7, 1875.

Your correspondent has been rustivating for the last four days in this much misunderstood land of fertility and flowers. We were too late to join the great excursion of Northern editors who, through the liberality and enterprise of the Hon. J. M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, and Col. T. B. Mills, one of the most public-spirited citizens of Arkansas, have been taking a look at the wonderful natural resources of this State. The day we arrived was the last day of the excursion in Arkansas, and the company, numbering about 150, divided, one-half going over the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad to Forrest City, 95 miles, and the other going over the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad to the celebrated Spadra coal mines, 100 miles west of here. The editors are perfectly enthusiastic over the State, as most everybody else is who has visited the State this year. The people have been wild with delight at the opportunity thus presented of showing to their

brethren of the North that Arkansas is peaceable, law-abiding, and desirous of immigration. Here a magnificent banquet was given them, and the whole city was clamoring for an opportunity to extend hospitality. From here the party went to Hot Springs, whose fame is becoming world-wide, and where Senator Morton has sought relief several times. There the most generous welcome awaited them, and their coming was made an occasion of festivities that would honor any of the large cities of the North.

Col. T. B. Mills is a real estate dealer who believes in making the State known, and his courtesy to strangers, whether they purchase or not, wins the hearts of all who visit his office. He has established a free reading-room, where can be found a thousand different daily and weekly papers from every State in the Union. There are 60 from Indiana, 100 from Illinois, 30 from Iowa, 35 from Georgia, 30 from California, 45 from Massachusetts, etc., etc. What would you think of such individual enterprise as that in Wabash?

You will ask me what I think of Arkansas? The half has not been told to her credit. I had heard of her big wheat, oats, etc., but the specimens I have seen exceed all reports. I have seen cotton so high that I could but just reach the tops on horseback; corn 19 feet high; oats 7 feet high, with heads 22 inches long; apples weighing  $24\frac{1}{2}$  oz.; and pears weighing  $30\frac{1}{8}$  oz. Coal, said to be the finest in the world, and minerals are found here in abundance. The climate at this season is most delightful. The people seem cheerful, kind and hospitable. The only thing lacking is schools in the country. They have good schools in all towns, and with immigration will come schools and churches. You cannot have all these things and have cheap lands. I have bought me a small farm of 200 acres of as fine land as any in the Wabash Valley—160 acres prairie and 40 acres woodland; such land can be bought from \$2 to \$4 per acre. I shall return in a few days and will bring some of the products to show to the unbelieving. I think this is the great fruit land of America, and to any of my friends who contemplate visiting the South, I say go by the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, and don't fail to call at Little Rock and see the free reading-room of Col. T. B. Mills and the magnificent collection of grains, grasses and fruits now being gathered for the great Centennial exhibition at Philadelphia.

Let me say a word about grasses before I close this hastily-written letter. I have seen timothy four feet high, with heads 10 inches long, and the finest red-top and clover I ever saw. It seems just the place for an enterprising man, whether rich or poor, as you will find nice prairie, good timber, good water, and as kind, hospitable people as ever lived.

## FROM THE "WABASH PLAIN DEALER."

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E. B. McPHERSON, CORRESPONDENT.

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At the invitation of Col. J. M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, and T. B. Mills & Co., real estate agents at Little Rock, Arkansas, about 100 representatives of the press met at St. Louis on the 28th of September to join in an editorial excursion for the land of cotton.

We were met at the Southern Hotel by the above-named gentlemen, and duly ticketed for the round trip, and at nine o'clock P. M. the train, consisting of five Pullman palace cars, moved out. Among others who joined us at St. Louis was the Hon. Logan H. Roots, ex-member of Congress from Arkansas; Col. E. N. Hill, an original Arkansas traveler, and a man alive to the interests of his native State; also Judge Shirk, of Peru, Indiana, who has traveled extensively throughout the State, and made large investments there.

We awoke in the morning as the train passed the town of Moark, which is just on the north line of the State of Arkansas, and about the first pleasant sight that greeted our eyes were some peach trees bending under their weight of ripe fruit. The road here follows for some distance the flat country between the St. Francis and Black rivers, which is heavily timbered and sparsely settled, the small settlements being generally decorated by the old-time log hut, the village being composed of one saloon, two stores and a blacksmith shop. By the way, one of the party here related an anecdote which was relished by all. Some travelers passing through this country came into one of these villages on the Sabbath, and, it being a chilly day, wanted something warming. They looked around till they espied the ever-present sign "Saloon." On inquiring for the proprietor, they were told that he was at Sunday-school, he being the superintendent of the only one in the village, and to their great disgust they found it would be a necessity for them to "keep cool."

The country for many miles is generally level and quite heavily timbered, mostly oak, hickory and gum. We took breakfast at Walnut Ridge, near where our friend Shirk has some landed interests, and he took special pains to show us some of the fine large ears of corn growing in a field near by. From Walnut Ridge to Newport, at the crossing of White river, farms were more numerous, and the large growth of cotton and corn was evidence of rich soil. Newport is a thriving town in the midst of a rich country, and would not be a bad place to locate, White river being navigable far above this point. The next place of interest is Judsonia, on the Little Red river, 50 miles this side of Little Rock. Here we saw the first bale of cotton, with the American flag waving over it. Here is located the Judson University, a Baptist institution, under the charge of

Rev. Benjamin Thomas, a live Welshman, who, with many others of the citizens, gave us a hearty greeting. He accompanied us to the capital. This village is being built by a colony, and is destined not far in the future to become an important town.

Shortly after noon we crossed the Arkansas river, and soon rattled up to the depot at the north end of Little Rock, where the citizens had congregated *en masse* to welcome us, a brass band playing the appropriate tune, "The Arkansas Traveler." After partaking of a bountiful dinner we were shown over the city, which is beautifully situated on high bluffs overlooking the broad Arkansas bottoms.

The capital city contains probably 18,000 inhabitants, possesses an air of thrift and cleanliness, and is, no doubt, one of the healthiest in the Southwest, and with the rapidly increasing railroad facilities, it is destined to be, not far in the future, one of the most important points of trade. There is no place that I know of that offers more inducements for the location of manufacturing establishments, especially for the manufacture of agricultural implements, furniture and wagons, there being an inexhaustible supply of timber, coal and iron in the immediate vicinity. We were shown the many places of interest about the city, and, among others, the home of the famous "Arkansas Traveler," who departed this world some two years since.

From Little Rock we went to Hot Springs, a thriving little city located in the mountains, some 65 miles to the southwest. This is one of the liveliest places in the State, and is, without doubt, destined to be always one of the most important places of resort for the invalid and pleasure-seeker in this great country of ours. A narrow-gauge railroad will soon be completed from Malvern, a station on the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, which will make it of easy access to the world, and will, no doubt, largely increase the travel in that direction. The springs of hot water spouting from the side of the mountains are truly a matter of wonder, and the cures effected by their use are said to be marvelous. Here we were met by hosts of citizens, who vied with each other to extend to us the hospitalities of their city. This city has a daily paper—the *Telegraph*—many fine business buildings and hotels; also, street cars, a city park, and many other accompaniments of a young and thriving city.

From Hot Springs we returned to Malvern and went down to Arkadelphia, a city of considerable importance on the Ouachita river, in the midst of the richest cotton and corn-growing country. Here the citizens had killed the fatted calf and had him roasted whole, and served up to us in fine style in a beautiful grove near by. Speeches of welcome were made by several prominent citizens, which were responded to by several of our party with a hearty good will. We were shown over the rich cotton-fields, the first picking of which is now being harvested, and which is producing a bountiful yield. At night we returned to Little Rock, and on the next day ran up the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad to the coal mines, distant about 100 miles, passing some thriving villages and witnessing many evidences of prosperity and plenty. The crops of wheat, corn, oats and cotton along this line of road were very heavy this season. The wheat

shown us at the mills was of the finest quality, and, it was told us, would average 62 pounds to the bushel; ears of corn of immense size were also shown us, and a cucumber weighing 54 pounds was one of the curiosities displayed at one of the stations.

I have been compelled to write this up hastily, therefore cannot enter into details, but will say that all who accompanied this excursion seemed strongly impressed with the wonderful resources of the State of Arkansas, and convinced that, in no far distance in the future, it would be one of the most wealthy, as it is now the most desirable in the way of climate and cheap lands, in all the great Southwest.

Socially and politically, Arkansas seems now to be fully under the control of the better classes, and with little indications of future trouble. Gov. Garland's administration is giving general satisfaction, so far as we could ascertain, and as to any strife on the color-line, there were no indications perceptible. There seems to be a scarcity of laborers, and a few thousand *industrious* tramps, who are roaming over our country looking for work, might find constant employment at not less than \$1.50 per day by emigrating to that congenial clime. As I expect to experience some of the pleasures of the climate ere long, I will withhold further writing till I become better posted.

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## FROM THE "INDIANAPOLIS DAILY NEWS."

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F. T. HOLLIDAY, CORRESPONDENT.

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About two weeks ago the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, in conjunction with Messrs. T. B. Mills & Co., proprietors of the *Spirit of Arkansas*, and also large real estate dealers, issued to members of the press throughout the States of Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin, invitations to join an excursion party to Little Rock, Arkansas, and from thence to spread out over the State, and examine as thoroughly as possible its resources, in order to carry back a full and correct report, which, when published in the papers edited and represented, might give the public a different impression about Arkansas from the one usually entertained. In response to this invitation, nearly 100 newspaper men promptly seated themselves in fine Pullman sleeping coaches, at the Iron Mountain depot at St. Louis, on Tuesday evening, September 28th, at nine o'clock, and the order being given to start, the city was soon left behind and the long journey commenced.

## THE IRON MOUNTAIN ROAD.

The first thing, perhaps, to mention ought to be the road which projected this trip. The part of it extending from St. Louis to Iron Mountain, a distance of 81 miles, has been in operation several years and was known as the St. Louis & Iron Mountain. Its President, Thomas Allen, one of those long-headed, far-reaching and far-seeing men, who arrange all their plans with an eye to the future more than the present, saw in the future that the road which would connect the middle and Western States with the South and Southwest by the shortest route would inevitably obtain the bulk of the immense business furnished by the country, to say nothing of the Southern Pacific when completed. He got hold of a road known as the Cairo & Fulton, and by consolidating it with his own, has obtained a direct outlet to Texarkana, a distance of 490 miles in a direct diagonal line southeast of St. Louis, and which now goes by the name of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad.

## LITTLE ROCK.

After being wrapped in the arms of Morpheus all night, morning with its coming brought the welcome amount of breakfast, which was quickly dispatched, and mile after mile was rapidly passed until three o'clock, when Little Rock was reached. The hospitality of the leading citizens was extended to the excursionists by their taking them to their homes, giving them good dinners, and showing them the different places of interest, by driving them in carriages all over the city and surrounding country. Then in the evening came an elegant banquet, which passed off pleasantly, and during which the best of feeling prevailed, and "all went merry as a marriage bell." From what one could judge from private as well as public conversation with the leading politicians and men of the State, as well as those in more humble life, everybody has had enough of politics and fighting and wants to steer clear of them hereafter, and devote their full and undivided attention to developing and building up their State, so that she may stand second to none of the others. All that they want is to have the majority rule, and not to be dictated to or interfered with by any party or authority outside of their State, when they are not violating the laws of the United States.

## HOT SPRINGS.

To go back to the trip, however. The morning following the banquet the train was run down the road 43 miles to Malvern, and a change of base was made to a train of flat cars, fitted up with rough board seats, and which belonged to a narrow-gauge road being built from Malvern to the Hot Springs, a distance of 27 miles, of which nine have been finished and are in good running order. At the end of this road a number of four-horse stages were in waiting to convey the travelers to the springs, 18 miles further, and after a ride over a rocky, rough, dirty and hilly road, the destination was gladly reached. Then came a solid dinner, an inspection of the wonderful life-giving and healthy water, two

large balls at the hotels in the evening, followed by a good night's rest. Early in the morning back to Malvern, then down the road 22 miles to Arkadelphia, where a grand barbecue was in waiting, the quick dispatching of which caused even the natives to look on with astonishment, which is the more remarkable as they are rather bad on the eat themselves. Now the order comes to run back to Little Rock (or the Rock, as it is commonly called). Another morning has now arrived, and the party separates, some to go north on the Fort Smith & Little Rock road, to inspect the coal and mineral lands 120 miles away, the rest to go out on the Memphis & Little Rock road to Forrest City, a distance of 90 miles, and within 45 miles of Memphis. Then Sunday morning at two o'clock sees the party reunited and started for home, arriving at St. Louis at seven in the evening, where the separation of the party was finally completed.

#### ARKANSAS AS IT APPEARED.

The part of the State through which the party traveled was rather rocky and hilly, with immense quantities of timber spreading over its surface. The State is intersected by several large rivers, which afford good means of navigation on account of their great width and depth, so that in a measure the lack of railroads is atoned for. Then, too, there are many smaller streams, so that no lack of water is felt, and the soil along the bottoms of all these streams is of that rich, black color which produces the best of cotton, corn, wheat, vegetables and fruits in great quantities. The timber is of a good quality, stands very thick, and looks as though its supply could never be exhausted. The different kinds are black walnut, oak of all kinds, hickory, pine, locust, cypress, pecan, cedar, beech, ash, plum, maple, bois d'arc and cherry. It is estimated that the State contains 45,000,000 acres of timbered lands, so that the reader can form a slight idea of the vast amount of this valuable product. Fortunes can be made from these timbered lands. The lumber is worth more than the assessed value of the State. Immigrants who will save and not destroy will find the timbered lands a mine of wealth—richer and more certain than the big bonanzas of Nevada and Colorado.

#### FARMING STATISTICS.

There were in Arkansas in 1870, 49,424 farms, containing 1,859,821 acres of improved lands, 3,910,325 acres of woodland, and 1,827,150 acres of other lands attached. These farms were placed at a cash valuation of \$40,029,698, and the farming implements used on them at \$2,237,409. The wages paid to farm hands amounted to \$4,061,952, and the amount produced was \$40,701,699. This is the most astonishing result ever shown from farm labor. Every acre of land in the State produced \$21.94.

The land below Little Rock is more level, and the road from this city to Memphis runs through some very fine and large prairies, reminding one somewhat of Kansas or Illinois. The farmers are now turning their attention more to raising corn, wheat and fruits, beginning to realize that cotton cannot always be relied upon, and therefore in case of its failure it is well to have something else to fall



back upon. The following is a sample of the height and yield of some of the grains and grasses, specimens of which were on exhibition at T. B. Mills & Co.'s office:

Wheat, six feet high, with heads six inches long; rye, eight feet six inches high; oats, seven feet high, with heads eighteen inches long; millet, nine feet high, with heads nine inches long; Hungarian grass, four feet high, from the second crop this year; timothy, four and a half feet high, yielding four tons to the acre; clover, four tons to the acre; blue grass, four and a half feet high; red-top, four feet high, three tons to the acre; and orchard grass, five feet high, three tons to the acre.

#### POPULATION NEEDED.

What Arkansas most needs is immigration. She possesses all the resources which, when fully developed, will well repay the laborer. Lands can be bought on ten years time for almost nothing. The St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad has nearly 2,000,000 acres of land for sale, which accounts for the milk in the cocoanut, in their having gotten up this excursion as a grand and glorious advertisement, which, truth compels one to say, was a great success. Before closing this letter, a word or two might be appropriate as regards the gentlemen who had the personal supervision of this trip. To Col. J. M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner of the road, thanks are due for his courtesy and care for the comfort of those under his guidance. In this it would be well to include Col. G. W. Hered, belonging to the Land Department also, who certainly knows how to treat newspaper men; then, too, T. B. Mills & Co., who did a great deal of hard work to make the trip a success, in which they were ably seconded by the officers of the different roads, stage lines, and citizens of all the towns and cities through which the party passed. If all excursions pass off as pleasantly as this one has done, may we always be there to take a part.

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### FROM THE "HUNTINGTON DEMOCRAT."

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SAM. F. WINTER, EDITOR.

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Some weeks since an invitation was extended to the Press of the Northwest to join in an excursion into the interior of Arkansas, by Hon. J. M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, and Col. T. B. Mills, real estate agent at Little Rock. In response to this invitation about 100 journalists repaired to St. Louis,

#### THE RENDEZVOUS OF THE PROJECTED EXCURSION,

to participate in the tour. The press of this city was represented by Capt. U. D. Cole, of the *Herald*, and ourself. Leaving Huntington on the evening

train on Monday, September 27th, we arrived at St. Louis at seven o'clock on the morning of the 28th. Here, at the Planters', we met Judge Shirk, of Peru, a gentleman who has been a speculator in Minnesota, Nebraska and Kansas lands for years, and who has now turned his attention to the more prolific and inviting acres of Arkansas. Reporting at the headquarters of the excursion our intention to participate, we were properly credentialed, ticketed and badged for the most popular and interesting journey the "press-gang" of the country was ever invited to. As the party was not to leave until nine o'clock at night, opportunity was offered to "do" St. Louis, the actual and real

#### METROPOLIS OF THE WEST AND SOUTHWEST,

of which we availed ourselves so far as time permitted. We inspected the majestic iron bridge spanning the Mississippi, from whose dizzy heights we surveyed the shipping along the levee; the tunnel under the city, traversed by the railroads, and last and most wonderful of all, Shaw's Botanical Garden,

#### A PERFECT EDEN,

containing native flowers and plants and shrubs of all varieties, and exotics from all parts of the globe. Here were house-plants, trees, shrubs and flowers from the Cape of Good Hope, from the East Indies, from Java, from New Holland, from the Isle of Ceylon, from the Isle of Bourbon, from the West Indies, from Australia, from New South Wales, from China, the Levant, and the Lord only knows from where else. The plants were in mammoth summer-houses, and all labeled. Descriptions of the various trees and plants were taken while going through this subliminary elysium, but we have no space to describe them. The garden is a wonder of earth, a visual realization of Mahomet's ideal of the realm of heaven. The garden blooms with flowers of every hue and perfume, and beautiful walks, shaded with evergreens, spruces and pines, tall and symmetrical, circle and intersect each other at every turn. A museum of botany, ornithology, zoology and painting is on the grounds; an observatory, standing in the centre, from which the garden may be overlooked, and a mausoleum, where the proprietor has devised a resting-place for his remains when his earthly pilgrimage is over, are some of the objects of interest. Admission to the garden is free to all. Pleasure-seekers come and go daily throughout the year. Mr. Shaw is a rich Englishman, a bachelor by the way, without kith or kin, an octogenarian in age, and takes pride in feeding the curiosity of the public from his ample purse.

#### OFF FOR DIXIE.

Having seen as much of St. Louis as time would permit, we boarded the excursion train on the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, consisting of six Pullman coaches, a smoking and a baggage car, and at nine P. M. were whirled through the night towards the Arkansas State line, which was reached about six o'clock on Wednesday morning. The excursionists were called from their coaches, and from this point forward the country was an object of interest to all. At the State line, the lands of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad

commence, and extend to alternate sections for indefinite distances in the State, on either side of the road, to the northern boundary of Texas. We entered the State at the northeast corner, in Clayton county, and found

#### THE COUNTRY AS NATURE MADE IT,

excepting only that the forests had been somewhat thinned for fuel for the locomotives, and here and there a "settler" had erected a cabin, and cleared enough land to produce a living from. The surface generally is rolling, with alluvial soil, apparently easily cultivated and seemingly very productive.

#### THE PRINCIPAL GROWTH OF TIMBER HERE

is white, black and red oak, hickory and ash. The Cache river runs through the centre of the county, and within a few miles of the railway, the valleys of which are rich and fertile. The western part of the county is said to be broken and hilly. The county south of Clayton is Lawrence. It is divided near the centre by the Black river, and the region through which the railroad passes is known as "the Black river bottom." The soil is alluvial and produces excellently; in fact, it is not unlike the bottom-lands of the Wabash valley. And there is an almost exact similarity between the uplands there and those of the immediate regions here, in this — that the soil is derived chiefly from the flint-like quartz, honestone and magnesian limestone. The timber consists of oak, ash, hickory, gum, black walnut and persimmon. Cotton, corn, and what is known as herd's grass, produce exceedingly well here. Lead and zinc are also found in this county. In some places the land is flat, but there is little of it along the railway that cannot be cultivated. Beyond Black river, four miles west, a finely cultivated country and rich plantations are found. As high up as Clayton county cotton plantations exist, but the product is light and inferior in comparison with the product a hundred miles further south. Stations more or less pretentious are along the road, and we remember that Corning, a village in this county, is ambitious of becoming a town of importance. The ground here was cultivated before Arkansas was admitted into the Union, and a plantation that was once undoubtedly a profitable one is now a common, staked out for a city.

A mile below Corning is a saw-mill, built on a lake, which supplies lumber for the settlers hereabouts, and for a distance up and down the road. The country here is low and wet, resembling that between Roanoke station, on the Toledo, Wabash & Western Railway, and the prairie east of it. At a station below this some miles there is a large saw and planing mill, conducted by parties from Kokomo. The mill is well patronized and displays a fine supply of dressed lumber in its ample yard. At Walnut Ridge the excursionists breakfasted and had an opportunity of looking about for an hour and a half.

#### A NATIVE PRODUCT,

in the form of a black bear, captured on the Cache river, a few miles east of the Ridge, was here exhibited, and we were told that some weeks before a daring

hunter had slain seven of the bruin family in that region. Walnut Ridge is named after a heavy growth of walnut in this locality, between the railroad and Black river. The timber here is ash, sugar, elm, white oak, gum, hackberry and cypress. The land is level and of a rich alluvial character, and yields well wherever cultivated. This is rather an inviting locality.

At the town of Newport, in Jackson county, a number of Indianapolis capitalists are investing largely in lands and in manufacturing interests. This town is well located on White river, with a most romantic view of the stream, which is navigable here at all seasons of the year, and for vessels of the heaviest draught.

At Judsonia, in White county, the excursionists were welcomed by a turn-out of citizens of both sexes. Specimens of the products of the soil, such as cotton, corn, fruit, etc., were on exhibition for our inspection; a flag was flapping in the genial breeze, and banners and mottoes hung on the outer walls of the depot building, with inscriptions assuring us that we were "some pumpkins," and our occupation as quill-drivers mightier than the warrior's. Of course, we were all considerably inflated over this information and proud of the reception. At this place there is

#### A BAPTIST UNIVERSITY,

established in 1870 by a colony from Chicago. Searcy is the county seat of White. It is four miles west of the railway, reached by a wooden track, is possessed of a sulphur spring, and enjoys some popularity as a watering-place. Coal-beds and iron ore exist in this county in large beds.

Crossing over the northwest corner of Lonoke county, we enter Pulaski, in which Little Rock, the capital of the State, is located.

#### A RESUME.

The counties of Clayton, Lawrence, Independence, Craighead, Jackson, White and Lonoke, so far as our observation could extend in a transitory passage through them, are rich in timber, minerals and soil. They produce all the cereals, vegetables and grasses that can be produced anywhere, and in equal abundance, as well as cotton; and without magnifying any of their advantages, we assert, as one whose pursuit it is to disseminate information, that it is the region where the industrious man of limited means can go and increase his worldly store with less labor and surer prospects of success than in any section of country we are acquainted with. Adjoining counties may afford like opportunities, but of them we cannot speak from observation.

#### THE PROUD CAPITAL OF ARKANSAS.

Little Rock is situated on the south bank of the Arkansas river. The town site is a high plateau, with a succession of beautifully sloping hills, overlooking the country for miles. From its geographical advantages it is to some extent already a railroad center, and in the coming years is unquestionably destined to rival our own State capital in this respect. From James P. Henry's work, entitled "The Resources of Arkansas," we quote as follows, which our observations corroborate:

"The facilities to become the great distributing point for a vast inland country are not equalled by any other place in the Southwest. Its manufacturing interests are looked well after and encouraged, and are rapidly enlarging. Judging from what has been accomplished in establishing manufactories during the past few years, Little Rock is destined to become the principal manufacturing city of the Southwest. Every natural advantage that may be wished to support manufactories is found here. Improvements are continually being made; extensive and substantial business houses are rapidly building to accommodate its fast increasing trade; elegant and attractive dwelling-houses are appearing in all parts of the city; large and beautiful churches and school-houses are to be seen, and everything being done to improve and beautify the place. It has ten or twelve well-sustained churches of the various denominations, and several good schools. St. John's College and St. Mary's Academy for girls are located here—the former having collegiate powers and a military department. It has four banks and several hotels, and an able bar. It has several manufacturing establishments, and needs ten times as many more. It has a good and commodious wharf and a chamber of commerce. The city is lighted by gas."

A population of 20,000 is claimed for it. Among the objects of interest here visited with our genial host, the Hon. W. W. Wilshire, a colleague of Major Saylor in the last Congress, were the barracks, a beautiful 35-acre tract, well improved with substantial brick buildings and commodious frames. The old quarters were constructed in 1835, and designed as a convenient depot for supplies for the southwestern frontier. The barracks were surrendered by Gen. Totten, in 1861, to the citizens under Gov. Rector, and recaptured in 1863 by Gen. Steele. Gov. Rector will be remembered from his somewhat saucy dispatch to President Lincoln, in response to a call for State troops: "You can go to hell, and I'll go with the Southern Confederacy." The barracks are now in charge of Major Wainwright, an accomplished and pleasant gentleman, and brevet Major Rosencrantz, formerly of Gen. Meade's staff. The barracks furnished two companies of troops during the time of the Baxter-Brooks imbroglio, but their ammunition consisted of blank cartridges. The citizens of Little Rock are exceedingly hospitable. The excursionists were received at the depot by a band of music playing the very appropriate air of "The Arkansas Traveler," a large assemblage of the population, and by carriages for our accommodation. Capt. Cole and ourself were the guests of Judge Wilshire, and were most royally entertained. The Judge drives the best team in Little Rock, and behind his fine roadsters we visited every part of the city, not even forgetting the late residence of Albert Pike, the great editor, statesman, orator and poet, and the idol of Arkansas. The State House is pretty much such a rickety and tumble-down affair as the capitol of Indiana, and the construction of a new one would be agitated but for the heavy debt resting on the State.

In the evening "the editorial mob" was invited to a sumptuous banquet in Harmonia Hall, a most commodious room. Tables, weighed down with the choicest viands and most superb wines, were arranged in tiers after the manner of a Virginia worm-fence through the capacious hall, and accommodations were complete

for an indefinite number of guests. The professional and mercantile interests of the city were here represented, and such an ovation of fellowship and welcome was never before known in Little Rock. There was a determination on all sides to show that the best feeling possible existed among the people of Arkansas towards the representatives of the population of the North, and that the desire to induce immigration was absolutely heartfelt. The hall was crowded and there was nothing wanting to make the *fete* a brilliant success but the flashing eyes and bright smiles of the gentler sex. The walls were graced with inscriptions such as "Young man, go West," "The pen is mightier than the sword," "Welcome to Arkansas," etc., etc. A brass band discoursed splendid music, and hilarity and feasting ruled the fleeting hours. The guests being seated, Gen. Robt. C. Newton was called upon to make the welcoming address.

Addresses in response to toasts were made by Judge Wilshire, Capt. Cole, Gen. Pomeroy, Judge Yonley, Senator Clayton, Col. Mills, and a host of other Southern and Northern gentlemen. Judge Wilshire is a strong advocate of river improvements, as a means of cheap transportation, and referred to this subject in his pertinent remarks. Capt. Cole rejoiced at the hearty reception accorded to the excursionists, and felt if there were any prejudices existing among the Northern people, such demonstrations were certain to dispel them. There was in this welcome evidence of a purpose to restore the amicable relations which should subsist to make a country great and prosperous. When the people of the North can come here and be received and entertained in so friendly and hospitable a manner as we have been, it is manifest that the true spirit of reconciliation and reconstruction animates the people here. From his observations since he had entered the State, Capt. Cole paid a high tribute to the boundless resources of Arkansas. While cotton had been recognized as king, there were other equally as compensating productions. The minerals of the State, the manufacturing facilities, the inviting field for stock-raising were ready to pay capitalists largely on their investments. The speaker predicted that in the common purpose of her citizens was the lever which would lift Arkansas to the plane to which she belongs.

Speaking, interspersed with music, continued until one o'clock in the morning, when the party repaired to their couches in the sleeping cars, and were conveyed to Malvern, a station 45 miles south—the eastern terminus of a narrow-gauge railroad in course of construction to Hot Springs. Here the quill-drivers were put on a side-track and left sleeping until nearly eight o'clock, when breakfast was announced. At nine the party stepped aboard of a train of flat cars, seated for the occasion, and after listening to an address of welcome from Col. Frazier, and passing a resolution of thanks for the reception, were put

#### EN ROUTE FOR HOT SPRINGS.

The cars were decorated with banners and mottoes, and foremost of all was a crown, fabricated from some yellow material, with a cotton wreath surmounting it, looking for all the world in the bright morning sunlight like a crown of gold. In a myrtle wreath was the word "Welcome," and no one who mingled among

the natives, and heard them express themselves, entertained any other opinion than that the word sincerely expressed the sentiment of the people. Everywhere, so far, the people of Arkansas had been found intelligent, warm-hearted and hospitable, seeking to impress their visitors with their earnestness in desiring to establish more intimate relations with the North, and to assure them that any settlers from the North would be heartily welcomed and respected. The pinnacle of hospitable greeting, however, was met with at the present terminus of the narrow-gauge railway, 11 miles from Malvern. Here, in a wild and mountainous region, with no sign of habitations, and none of civilization, save the railway and a rough wagon road, the party was intercepted by a delegation of citizens from Hot Springs, with all manner of vehicles, from the old-fashioned stage coach to the most antique farm wagon. It was

#### A BIG UNDERTAKING

for a village containing a population of less than 2,000, with no settled country for miles around it, to furnish transportation for 150 persons, yet the village was equal to the call, and there was room to spare. The vehicles were formed in procession, and for a distance of six miles, up mountains, down through ravines and gorges, with rocky, rough and uneven roads, the pilgrims were shocked, thumped, shattered and battered until their bones were sore and their patience about exhausted. Such a procession probably never anywhere traveled through so wild, rough and unsettled a country. Better roads were found at the end of six miles, and better time made. For five hours, with a vertical sun pouring its pitiless rays upon us, and clouds of dust encircling the wagons, this kind of entertainment was afforded us, and

#### NOT A DROP TO DRINK!

Think of it. The timber through this wild region is chiefly pine, of stately growth and unlimited extent. On the road traveled by us, three miles southeast of the Springs, in a clearing of one of the pine forests, is where the Younger and James brothers robbed the passengers of a mail coach last fall. The driver of the coach was very explicit in his information as to the exact locality of the exploit, and no doubt regarded it as a romantic episode. At half-past two o'clock the entrance to the valley in which the village is located was reached, and the marshals halted the wagons and restored system. A cavalcade of citizens joined us, and presently, like John Brown's soul, we once more went "marching on." Those of our party who had pinned their ribbons of red and blue to the lappels of their coats were the admired of all the negro women and children in the place, and we cannot help recording that the excursionists were pretty much looked upon as part and parcel of a circus company. Distinctly do we remember hearing a massive wench call her young ones out to "see de show." The reception at the Springs was but a repetition of prior receptions. The party was badged as "Our Guests," and the freedom of the town and the hospitality of the citizens were bountifully extended.

## THE TOWN OF HOT SPRINGS

is picturesquely situated between two spurs of the Ozark Mountain, on the east side of Hot Spring Mountain, and occupies a valley running north and south. It is surrounded by hills on every side, presenting beautiful sites for residences. The business part of the town is in the narrowest part of the valley, and the thermal springs are adjacent thereto. The town is scattered along the valley a mile each way, with street railway accommodations. The ownership of the town site and the springs is in dispute, and until a good title is vested somewhere the growth of the town must necessarily be slow. Mr. John Morrissey contemplates building a palatial hotel here as soon as the title is settled. There is but one street in the town, the valley being too narrow to admit of two. There are no sidewalks, and, what is more singular still, there is no municipal government, and yet such a thing as disorder is unknown. The population, including transients, is upwards of 3,000. Two daily newspapers and 12 hotels, some of them metropolitan in structure and commodiousness, are supported.

## A VISIT TO THE SPRINGS.

In company with Judge Shirk, of Peru, we scaled the jagged mountain side in search of the famous "fountains of eternal youth," which Ponce de Leon failed in discovering, and Hernando de Soto died broken-hearted in the vain attempt to find. The springs are 56 in number, of all sizes (some sealed), and their waters are said to be efficacious for all maladies, excepting those of a pulmonary character. The hill-side is dotted with rude huts, tenanted by those who are too poor to pay for bathing-house or hotel accommodations. Such a hideous and leprous set as some of these individuals are cannot be found outside of a lazaret-house, excepting here. The diseased come from all parts of the country, and the appearance of many would indicate that they come crawling on hands and knees. There are visitors here from countries of Europe and all parts of the United States; and when the unfinished 16 miles of "Diamond Joe's" railway are completed, and the Springs become thereby more accessible to the afflicted, there will be a largely increased patronage. The hot water is used for drinking as well as bathing. It is at first insipid and nauseous to the taste, but several quaffs serve to familiarize one with it, and from dislike we learn to like it. Col. Buckingham (and right here we deflect to state that every man in this region is *titled*; he is either a Senator, a Judge, a General, a Colonel, a Major or a Captain)—hence we say "Col." Buckingham, of the St. Joe (Mo.) *Herald*, who looks frequently upon the wine when it is red, when questioned as to his views of the merits of the thermal fluid, gravely declared he was no judge of water—it was too destitute of substance. The town presents many objects of curiosity, and some of the party came away with sacks filled with mineral specimens. California diamonds abound here, and we shall expect to hear of some of our fellow-excursionists sporting shirt-studs from these glittering pebbles. A hone-quarry is not far from the village, from which stone are shipped in large quantities. Dances at the Arlington and at the Hot Springs Hotel were had



expressly for the editors, and were brilliant affairs indeed. At the Arlington hop addresses were made by Col. Loughborough and others, and responded to by Gen. Pierce, whose acquaintance we formed at Little Rock, recognizing him as an Irish hack-driver. It was an acquaintance which subsequently turned out advantageously. The General has in his time been judge, lawyer, doctor, editor, poet and novelist. He is a first-class specimen of a Southwest adventurer, and a clever gentleman to boot.

Prominent politicians were at the Springs, among whom were Senator Dorsey and Judge McClure. The former accompanied us from Little Rock, and we just rise to say in his behalf that he can sing the song of Mary and the lamb as delightfully as any Hoosier that ever moved his lips to vocal strains, which the same he did in the mountains.

The visit to the Springs was *the* event of the excursion, and will be remembered when all other incidents are forgotten. After a wholesome night's repose the party returned to Malvern, and went down the Iron Mountain road to Arkadelphia, the county seat of Clark county, and the head of navigation on the Ouachita river. This was one of the richest counties in the State before the war, and at no place is there a greater desire to have Northern capital, enterprise and labor diffused than right here. There are fine lands in this county, and plantations that once ruled high in value can be had from \$5 to \$10 per acre. A capital opportunity was presented to mingle among the genuine natives, and hear from them their views of the local situation.

#### A LUXURIOUS BARBECUE

was here prepared in a grove adjacent to the town for the Arkansas travelers, and never did a hungry set of mortals do ampler justice to a feast. Long tables were improvised of pine boards, and on these were spread out for the half-starved fraternity beef, pork, mutton, with cart-loads of bread and oceans of water. Primitive man here asserted the superiority of fingers over knives and forks, from the force of necessity, and a jolly racket old Prim. had of it. The dainty fingers of William Henry Harrison Robinson, representing the *Fort Wayne Gazette*, were as glossy from his contact with Arkansas grease as his curly locks were from "bar's ile," and still he wasn't happy. There was no one here to call him out for a speech, and "Tip," as the boys called him for brevity, was sadly "down in the mouth," but he got one in (the 54th made by him on the trip, we believe,) through the watchful devotion of Col. Hill, the blood and thunder correspondent of the Chicago *Inter-Ocean*, at the reception in the evening. From Arkadelphia the party went

#### DOWN TO THE RICH COTTON-FIELDS,

some ten miles further south, and the train being halted for their inspection of the fields and the crops, and to see the pickers at work, the "mob" went into the fields, helped the pickers, asked Sambo and Dinah a thousand questions, went to the storage-sheds, saw the cotton of the hands weighed, and returned to the train at dusk, to be carried farther south, and then to return to the reception

at Arkadelphia. Speeches were made by prominent citizens of the place, responded to by members of the excursion, and for a few hours a real pleasant time was had. Judge McMillan,

#### A QUONDAM FIRE-EATER,

was the prominent orator of the evening, and felt considerably exhilarated by the mutual honors of the editorial visit to the town and the town's reciprocal jamboree. The Judge said, in referring to secession, that the South had thrown down the wager of battle, been beaten, and was willing to submit. It was all their own fault, they had nobody to blame but themselves, and they were long since willing to quit. He told a few stories of the early history of Arkansas, and subsided as gracefully as he entered upon "the stand," which was the staircase of a new hotel, with such adjuncts for speech-making within easy reach as our Huntington lawyers were accustomed to have 20 years ago. The Judge was preceded by a lawyer of the place named Thompson,

#### THOMPSON WITH A "P,"

as he told us, a broad-shouldered specimen of a New York Yankee, faltering in speech and slow in gesture; but the occasion was an unusual one, and the Arkansas statesmen were excusable. From this place we returned to Little Rock, whence on Saturday morning the party with whom we traveled had an excursion over the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad to Forrest City, a distance of 99 miles, through the land of the mound-builders, a country with a history before history was written, and the finest prairie land that ever the sun shone on. Before closing this part of the history of the tour, we may as well advert to the

#### SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STATUS

of the inhabitants of Arkansas. The same cordial relations exist among themselves as they unitedly extended to the excursionists. They recognize the fact that the development of the material interests of their State is paramount to any political consideration, and self-preservation suggests the presence of the hour when partisanship and personal strife must cease and be supplanted by a common and united effort to lift their State from the slough of misery into which it has been plunged by bad government.

#### "I HAVE NO POLITICS,"

is an expression you hear from many of the public men; and while, after all, a partisan sentiment crops out once in a while in the course of a conversation with them, there is generally a decided aversion to discussing questions of a political nature. They have, however, no hesitancy in expressing themselves on the financial question, and favor pretty solidly the platform of the Ohio and Pennsylvania Democracy. They require expansion rather than contraction to open up their undeveloped country and to establish industries.

## FROM THE "INDEPENDENT PRESS," BUNKER HILL.

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JOHN F. BUSEY, EDITOR.

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Upon invitation from Col. J. M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, we joined an editorial excursion to Arkansas. The object of the enterprise was to disseminate information throughout the Northwest in regard to the social and political condition of that much neglected State, as well as to investigate its agricultural and mineral resources.

As an agricultural State we think Arkansas is not surpassed by any State in the South. Thousands of square miles of fertile soil, covered with the finest timber in the world, are lying unimproved and subject to homestead entry. Lands which in Indiana would be worth \$75 per acre for the timber that is on them, can be had in fee simple for the taking of them, and adjoining or near to the Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, which is one of the best equipped roads in the West.

Also up on the Little Rock & Fort Smith road can be had the finest of prairie and timber lands, capable of producing 60 bushels of corn, 30 bushels of wheat, or 400 to 600 pounds of cotton to the acre, either by homestead or purchase from the railroad company, at \$3 to \$6 per acre. Besides producing all the cereals and cotton, there are no better fruit lands in the world. That the grape-vine is perfectly at home in Arkansas is abundantly attested by the innumerable wild grapes of different varieties found growing and bearing profusely all through the woods. The common winter variety, the Muscadine and Ouachita grapes, can be gathered during this month by the wagon-load in almost every part of the State visited by our party.

The mineral resources, like the agricultural, are almost entirely undeveloped, two coal mines in operation being all that came under our observation, although in many localities are to be seen indisputable evidences of rich mineral deposits. A whetstone or honestone, said to be the finest in the world, is now being quarried near the Hot Springs and shipped to all parts of the country. One gentleman from St. Louis, a professional mineralogist, whose name we do not remember, is responsible for the assertion that the Hot Springs honestone sold, when first quarried, for \$5 per pound. What it is worth now we did not learn, but judging from the quantity hauled to the railroad for shipment, it must be in good demand.

Every one who visits Arkansas should avail himself of the opportunity to see the famous Hot Springs. They are situated 57 miles southwest of Little Rock, but in reaching them you find it necessary to travel a circuit of 81 miles in order to save staging more than 24 miles. Featherstonhaugh, in his Geological Report, made nearly 40 years ago, gives the following graphic account of the Hot Springs :

“At length, nearing a considerable ridge and turning into a small valley about 50 yards broad, I saw from the appearance of things that I had reached the Hot Springs of the Ouachita, so great an object of curiosity to men of science, and so little known to the rest of the world. This valley, which runs north and south, extends about 800 yards, and then deflects to the west. At the foot of the eastern ridge, which is about 500 feet high, flows a lively stream, which rises in the hills to the northeast; this ridge has, towards the top, a dense growth of trees, amongst which are strewed fragments of the rock, often very ferruginous, and pieces of a strong band of iron-stone which traverses the ridges in the direction of N.N.E. and S.S.W., and dipping S.E. with sandstone at an angle of about 45 degrees.

“I had entered the valley but a short distance before I saw on the flank of the east ridge a rock of totally different character from that constituting the ridge, impending, like a curtain, down to the stream, and I at once recognized it for a travertine deposited by the mineral waters. The curtain, with some intervals, extends along the stream for about 400 yards from the slope of the ridge, presenting sometimes abrupt escarpments of from 15 to 25 feet, and at other times sloping itself in points and coves, advancing into and receding from the stream. This travertine extends back east from the stream about 150 yards, leaning upon the acclivity of the old red sandstone, to where several powerful springs are now situated. Some of the springs rise in the bed of the stream; one very fine spring rises in its west bank, while numerous others, of which, perhaps, 30 copious ones are found at various heights on the ridge, rising through the old red sandstone rock. Of springs of feebler force there are a great many. Some of them issue from the rock at an elevation of at least 100 feet from the valley where the present cabins are built. In this locality the hot water is so abundant that I found it often troublesome to procure that which was cold, for the hot springs occupying a breadth equal to 400 yards of the base of the ridge, all the hot water was discharged into the creek, which in many parts was a temperature just fitted for a warm bath; and what further assists to keep up its temperature is the great number of hot springs rising through the slate at the bottom of the brook—this can be seen almost at a hundred places—and although the water does not scald the hand there, still, upon insinuating my fingers a few feet below the ground at the edge of the stream, I was obliged to retire them instantly, having more than once burnt them in that way. Here the mineral hot waters, except one or two of the springs, which are slight chalybeates, are tasteless, not having the least saline trace. A person totally unacquainted with mineralogy, and not aware of any difference between travertine and old red sandstone, might suppose the mineral structure of all the rocks to be homogeneous, and that the waters, not differing in their taste from ordinary warm water, were without any mineral constituent, as the hot waters of the Ouachita have been reported to be, but these immense deposits of carbonate of lime attest the contrary. On digging about 25 feet above the level of the brook, I went through a foot of the carbonate with traces of sulphate of lime, and through a dark red oxide, with reniform masses of nodular iron with botryoidal faces. The sulphate was deposited in layers of acicular form. I then came to masses of ferruginous sandstone belonging to the

ridge. I took out one large mass of iron, the walls of which were in places two and a half inches thick of rich hematite ore."

After leaving the Springs on the morning of October 1st, we travelled 18 miles by stage and hack lines, which were kindly placed at the disposal of our party by the El Paso Stage Company line. At this point the party again boarded the cars on the narrow gauge for Malvern. Through Maj. G. P. C. Rumbough's courtesy we were conveyed in going, and also in returning, over that portion of the Hot Springs Railway that is finished, in flat cars, seated expressly for the occasion.

It was the intention of Col. Loughborough that the party should go as far south as Texarkana on the Texas and Arkansas line, but we were "billed" for Little Rock the next morning, and it was found impossible to reach Texarkana without throwing us one day behind the arranged programme. Leaving Malvern, we run south to Arkadelphia, where a grand barbecue awaited us. Long tables, spread in a beautiful oak grove, laden with roast beef, venison and chicken, as well as other solid refreshments, constituted a spectacle inviting to a hungry brigade of "quill-drivers." After giving evidence of our hearty appreciation of the kindness of the citizens of Arkadelphia by the manner in which we disposed of their substantial "vittles," we again boarded our Pullman cars. A run of 20 or 30 miles and we were in a very rich agricultural district. Where the train stopped we went out and examined as fine corn on one side of the track as one often sees anywhere. But what was of more interest to most of our party was the cotton-fields on the other side. A dozen negroes, of all sizes and both sexes, were engaged in picking cotton from what appeared to be a very fine crop of that important staple. Persons who are posted on the subject informed us that such a crop of cotton would make 500 pounds of pure cotton to the acre, which at present prices is worth \$65. The land is generally owned by men who live in the towns and rent to negroes for 100 pounds of ginned or pure cotton per acre. This same land, we are informed, can be bought for \$10 to \$15 per acre, including improvements, and rents for 100 pounds of cotton, which is worth \$13. The negroes who pick for others pick for 60 to 75 cents per 100 pounds. It was just late enough to see them carrying their baskets of cotton to the pens to be weighed.

The novelty of the scene having worn off, we returned to Arkadelphia, where a reception and speech-making was the order of the evening. Col. Gauling delivered the reception speech, bidding the party a hearty welcome to the hospitalities of the town, and expressing the desire that this enterprise might prove mutually beneficial to the two sections of our country represented—the Northwest and the Southwest. The many toasts and speeches that followed showed that a general good feeling pervaded the entire company.

There is no question but Arkansas offers many inducements to parties desiring to procure homes in the West. Her climate is much better than that of the Northwestern States. She produces abundantly almost all the cereal and vegetable crops that are raised in the North, and in addition to this she can raise cotton, and a quality of tobacco far superior to any we can raise in Indiana, and

when you talk about fruits she can beat us to death. We have been told that they cannot raise apples South, but the finest we ever saw were growing on the hills near Hot Springs.

After the reception meeting at the Reames House broke up we retired to our sleeping coaches and awoke next (Saturday) morning at Little Rock.

But one day of our time remaining and two railroads yet to traverse, it was decided to divide the party, one party to make the Memphis & Little Rock and the other the Little Rock & Fort Smith road. The writer preferred the latter for several reasons, chief among which was Horace Greeley's admonition, "Go West, young man, go West." Leaving Little Rock at eight o'clock, we soon reached Conway, a thriving little town but three years old, probably as large as Bunker Hill, and the county seat of Conway county. The county of Conway is but three years old as a county, having been cut off from another county in 1872. Right here, we think, is one of the best opportunities for a young man to get a good farm in as good community as can be found in the State. Conway lies 30 miles west of Little Rock, on the Fort Smith Railroad, six miles from a good landing on the Arkansas river, and on another line of proposed railroad which has been surveyed to run on a bee-line due east from Conway to Memphis. Fine timbered and fertile prairie lands, about equally divided, can be purchased from the railroad company at from \$2 to \$6 per acre. The latter price for lands adjoining the town of Conway, and the former for those ten miles out from the town. Homesteads can no longer be obtained nearer than six or eight miles of the county seat. Large quantities of hay made from the native prairie grass are baled at Conway and shipped to different points in the South.

At Clarksville we stopped awhile to look at the manufacturing interests of the place, which consist of two mills, both of which combine, under the same roof, saw mills, planers and flour mills, together with carders, spinners, and other wool-working machinery.

West of Clarksville we explored the Spadra coal mines, while the train ran down ten miles further to the end of the track to turn the engine and returned. These coal-fields are said to be practically inexhaustible, underlying millions of acres in beds of from three to ten feet in thickness. This railroad company was fortunate in securing the services of Col. Slack, formerly of Pittsburgh, to manage its land grant, which amounts to about 1,000,000 acres.

Returning to Little Rock at nine o'clock in the evening, our party had the pleasure of again meeting Col. Loughborough, whom we had left in the morning, and whom it is a pleasure to meet after having once made his acquaintance and profited by his information. The names of Col. Loughborough, Col. Slack and T. B. Mills will not soon be forgotten by the excursionists, and they will be remembered as gentlemen who were ever ready to administer to the comfort of our party, or give any required information, in a pleasant, unostentatious manner.

## FROM "IN-DOOR AND OUT," INDIANAPOLIS

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W. F. WADSWORTH, EDITOR.

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We left Indianapolis, making St. Louis over the popular Vandalia line on time, crossing the "father of waters," the Mississippi, on that grand monument of mechanical ability, the big bridge; thence passing through the tunnel under the city, we were once more ushered into daylight in St. Louis. We met our genial hosts, Col. Loughborough and T. B. Mills, at the Southern Hotel, and after spending the day in looking over the city, pulled out at nine o'clock P. M. on the train placed at the disposal of the excursionists, consisting of four Pullman, one day and one baggage car. We reached Little Rock at three P. M. the next day, where we were greeted by hosts of citizens, music and cheers that were hearty in the extreme. Here our party separated to dine with the citizens of Little Rock; and your correspondent will ever remember the pleasant hour passed at the elegant table of our city host, O. S. Warren, of the firm of T. B. Mills & Co.

Little Rock claims 20,000 inhabitants, and is surrounded by a fine country, and elements of growth which must at no distant day make of it a large and flourishing city. It has some handsome residences and a few fine three-story business blocks and hotels. The real estate office of T. B. Mills & Co. is the finest office in the city; indeed, we have none in our city of concentric circles and live real estate men which can compare with it. They have one of the most complete reading-rooms in the West; files of 800 papers are so arranged that from the index you can put your hand on any one you want at a moment's time. The stranger can here find his home paper, and a cozy place in which to read it. Right here I would say that the enterprising firm of T. B. Mills & Co. deserve the success they are finding. "Long may they prosper."

The people of Little Rock spread a banquet at Concordia Hall in the evening, which was an entire success, after which we took our rooms in Pullman's palaces and awoke at Malvern, from whence we took passage over the narrow-gauge road (being built from this point to Hot Springs by Joseph Reynolds, of Chicago, a private enterprise costing about \$350,000) to the jumping-off place among the hills, 14 miles from Hot Springs, where we were met by a delegation of Hot Springs people, with hacks, omnibuses and wagons in which to transport us across the hills to the fastest little town in the country, nestled down between the hills, surrounded by a country that looks as if it would not grow white beans. *Fast* does not hardly express it in speaking of this town. With nothing but hot water coming from the hills to make a town out of, still they have one of 3,000 inhabitants. Street cars, hotels, saloons without number, and everything else one would expect to see, and some things they would not.

The springs themselves are indeed wonderful; coming as they do, 42 in number, steaming hot—so hot, indeed, that you can cook eggs in them—from the side, top and base of the hills, with their different mineral properties, arsenic, iron, etc., and many invalids come here to get the benefit of nature's great panacea.

The title to the land on which these springs are located, comprising two full sections, is in dispute, and when this dispute is settled so that parties may know they are getting a title to what they buy, I expect to see Hot Springs, in spite of its surroundings, make a town in which to have a good investment is to have a fortune. The hotels were open to the editors, and we were treated in a princely manner. The gay and festive throng at the Arlington for the dance in the evening was enjoyable, and I, for one, felt like putting my beaver under my arm and making my most profound bow to the ladies in attendance in general, and to one or two in particular; may their roses never fade and their smiles never vanish.

Back to the Iron Mountain road, and then a run down to the Texas line, through the cotton-fields of the State, with a barbecue at Arkadelphia, took up our next day.

At Forrest City, in company with A. R. Grady, a most companionable gentleman, I drove into the country a little distance to a plantation of 640 acres, where we went through a cotton-field of 200 acres, that would average as high as my head. Coming back to Little Rock we pulled for home, having had a most enjoyable trip. I have no doubt, if Arkansas gets the emigration she should, that, with her vast resources, she will take a leading place among the sisterhood of States.

Greetings from the Southern gentlemen were of a warm and generous welcome, with assurances that Northern men would never regret a removal to the sunny South, and that that was the one thing they desired to see. "Nary a bowie-knife on the trip," but a generous, glorious time. May the State, as a State, prosper, and T. B. Mills & Co. and J. M. Loughborough, who planned and carried into execution this excursion, with such signal generosity and success, see the wilderness blossom and their fortunes increase.

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### FROM THE "ELKHART DAILY OBSERVER."

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REV. W. A. CLARK, CORRESPONDENT.

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Through the kindness of Mr. Molloy, editor of the *Elkhart Observer*, we were invited to represent it in the editorial excursion through Arkansas. The editors of the Northwest being indebted to Hon. J. M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner of the Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad Company, and Col. T. B. Mills, of Little Rock, Arkansas.



The excursionists, a hundred in number, gathered at St. Louis during the day, September 28th. As the special train did not start until nine P. M., we had a good opportunity to inspect the "town" at the other end of the bridge. Having lived some time in Chicago we had a prejudice against St. Louis, and hasten now to acknowledge that former opinions were erroneous. St. Louis is in many respects far ahead of Chicago, evidently has a larger population, more cautious in its business enterprises; and while the latter has some finer structures than any in the former, as a city St. Louis is much the best built city. There being no wooden buildings to coax a conflagration, it will never have such terrible destruction of property as has befallen so many wooden towns. The streets in the old part of the city are very narrow, the most serious objection to be urged against it, but back from the river there are many broad and magnificent avenues. It is well supplied with public markets—and this we found to be a feature of Southern cities—public buildings, easy of access to both the producer and consumer, where the farmers, gardeners, etc., offer for sale their merchandise directly to the citizens. As a consequence of this system, fruit, vegetables and meats are 20 per cent. cheaper to the consumer than they would otherwise be. These markets are kept neatly, and the stalls are rented at a nominal sum and are the property of the city.

We visited several public libraries. One, called the St. Louis Public School Library, is beyond question the finest and most extensive in the West. Chicago is sadly behind in this matter, as any one who has spent any time there has certainly learned.

#### THE EXCURSION.

At nine o'clock P. M. the "pencil-shovers" gathered at the depot of the Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, where we found a train, consisting of five Pullman cars and one day coach, placed at our disposal for five days. Being assigned luxurious quarters we started for the Southwest. On the morning of the 29th, on rubbing our eyes, we found that we were actually "Arkansas Travelers," whether we had learned the "turn of the tune" or not.

At the State line a little village has recently sprung up and been christened Moark. The *Times* man exclaimed "Jerusha, what a name!" but Col. Mills informed us it signified two great States bound together, "Mo." "Ark." At Walnut Ridge, a village of 200 inhabitants, we breakfasted. Here was a young black bear that took a decided liking to the *Times* man, but he kept out of its way much easier than he could have done after the Little Rock banquet.

The country from Moark to Little Rock, 160 miles, is level and heavily timbered with poplar, oak and gum. A part of the way walnut and ash are abundant, and a few pine trees. It is intersected by the Little Red, White and Black rivers, all of them navigable half the year. Along these streams the country is well improved, cotton, corn and wheat being the chief products. This is a magnificent fruit country, apples and peaches never failing. Back from the streams the country is wild, and lands can be bought for from \$1.50 to \$3 per acre, on long time. Towns are springing up on this railroad as by magic.

A large Northern population is found here, and trains are filled with men from Michigan, Indiana and Illinois, prospecting for good lands and a mild climate. At Judsonia we were heartily welcomed by a large concourse of citizens. Here we observed a banner bearing the sentence, "The pen is mightier than the sword." Judsonia is a Northern colony of Baptists who went there three years ago. They have a fine village and a good country. They have also a college, with good buildings, and an efficient faculty under the presidency of Rev. B. F. Thomas, a Welsh gentleman.

We arrived at Little Rock about two P. M., and were met at the depot by a delegation and music; were made the guests of the citizens, and went out two and two, Apostle-like. Your correspondent and Mr. Holliday, of Springfield, Ohio, were the guests of Judge Wassell, an old resident of Arkansas—a fine old English gentleman—who gave us a very candid history of their State troubles. At night a banquet was given by the citizens at Concordia Hall. Fine speeches were made, a hearty welcome given, and all were made to feel that they were among friends. Native wines, as Pat says, "all the way from Burgundy," flowed like water, and—but no tales out of school.

#### LITTLE ROCK.

We visited this place at the close of the war. It was then a rough-looking place, claiming 4,000 people, half of them "cullud pussons." Judge our surprise at finding now a neat and finely built city of 20,000 souls, full of Yankee enterprise.

#### HOT SPRINGS.

We reached Hot Springs, 55 miles southwest of Little Rock, by way of Malvern, where we were transferred to flat cars on the narrow-gauge, were carried 10 miles on it, thence by carriage to Hot Springs, 15 miles, over rocky hills and through rockier hollows. We found nestled among the mountains a town with one street, three miles long, just wide enough for a wagon road and street railway, and containing 4,000 people. Here is one of the world's wonders; 54 springs, ranging in temperature from 106 degrees to 166 degrees, flowing out of the mountain side, the lowest being in the channel of Hot Springs creek, the highest 96 feet above the creek; and, strange to say, those farthest up the hill are the warmest. These springs are visited by thousands of invalids every year, and wonderful cures are wrought, its waters being prescribed for every human ailment except lung troubles, its greatest cures having been wrought in cases of scrofula and rheumatic affections. It is destined to be the "Weisbaden" of America.

These springs form a creek large enough to run a mill, and a short distance below the springs is an old-fashioned flouring mill, with overshot wheel, run by hot water. By the theory of Darwin, we would call this old mill a connecting link between water and steam power.

Returning to Malvern, we continued our excursion to Arkadelphia, a prosperous town in Southwestern Arkansas. This is a lovely country; here "cotton is

king." Having visited the cotton-fields, feasted at an old-fashioned barbecue at Arkadelphia, and having the usual toasts and speeches, we returned to Little Rock during the night.

## UP THE ARKANSAS.

By invitation of Col. Hartman (all Colonels and Generals in the South), the Superintendent of the Fort Smith & Little Rock Railroad, we took a special train westward Saturday at seven A. M. We went 115 miles west, passing through an undulating country, heavy timber, interspersed with small prairies. This part of the State is improving rapidly, and is destined to be the best of Arkansas. We visited extensive coal mines at Spadra, said to be the best coal west of the Mississippi. Lands are very cheap, \$3 to \$10 per acre. At Lewisburg we were shown a Tonqua cucumber weighing 64 pounds, corn-stalks a rod high, and Japan peas that yielded 200 bushels per acre on the poorest land. Corn yields from 60 to 75 bushels per acre, wheat 25 to 35.

Falling in company with M. M. McGuire, of the *Arkansas Independent*, published at Dardanelle, he persuaded me to leave the excursion and stop with him a few days. We left the train at Russellville, and riding five miles southward, we crossed the river and found ourselves in a beautiful town of 2,500 people, the most thriving town between Little Rock and Fort Smith. I preached on Sunday evening in the M. E. Church to a fine-looking audience, and much larger than assembles at any church in Elkhart. I also preached in the Baptist Church Monday and Tuesday nights to full houses. I was much pleased with both country and people. Hospitable, enterprising and intelligent, they are glad to welcome Northern people that come among them as law-abiding citizens. They are disgusted with transient politicians, and justly so. While stopping at Dardanelle we visited Magazine Mountain, Dardanelle Rock and other objects of interest. We look back with great pleasure to a score of pleasant acquaintances found at Dardanelle, and can think of no place in the Southwest so inviting as either Dardanelle or Russellville.

After leaving Western Arkansas we returned to St. Louis, much invigorated by the journey and feeling that it had been a good thing for us. So ended the excursion, and there ended our health and vigor, for we fell sick among strangers and found no good Samaritan. We decided that St. Louis physicians were "hard up" if the charge made us for a prescription was a sample. Arriving at Elkhart after ten days' absence, disabled by sickness, we found that Elkhart has sympathy and hospitality to equal Southern chivalry. We like Elkhart, its enthusiastic enterprise, the frankness and generosity of its people; it is a good place to come home to. But when the turning of the ministerial mill shall cut us loose from Elkhart, another excursion to Arkansas will be in order.

## IMPRESSIONS.

As a summary of our observations we can safely say that Arkansas, for stock-raising, cotton-growing, hay, corn and wheat-farming, and fruit-growing, is equal to any of the Western States. With its timber, coal, iron, lead, etc., it

offers great inducements to the miner and mechanic. The laws are as rigidly enforced and society seems as quiet as in Indiana. Considering the climate, and mineral and agricultural resources of the State, we say, if people must change their abiding place, Arkansas holds out as great inducements as any part of our country. May peace and prosperity attend her.

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## FROM THE "LAWRENCEBURG PRESS."

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W. B. CHEW, EDITOR.

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Having accepted the invitation extended to the Press of the Northwest to visit the State of Arkansas, and having viewed its land, and shared the hospitality of its people, it becomes us to comply with their wish, the object of the excursion, "To have Arkansas written up as she is," and which we will endeavor to do.

The train, composed of four sleepers, one day coach, and one baggage car, started from the depot of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, at 9.20 p. m., Tuesday, September 28th, with about 125 persons aboard. Being tired, most of us having traveled from 200 to 600 miles the night and day previous, we retired soon after starting. About daylight we crossed the Missouri and Arkansas State line, and were passing through a heavily wooded country, with an occasional break or opening, and here and there a small town or farm to break the monotony. We breakfasted at Walnut Ridge at 8.30, then on to Little Rock, where we arrived at three p. m., and were received by an immense crowd, with music, huzzas, etc. During the evening a complimentary banquet was given at Concordia Hall by the citizens, and was one of the grandest affairs we ever attended. The hall was decorated on all sides with the stars and stripes, appropriate mottoes, and portraits of the Mayor, Chief of Fire Department, and Col. "Sandy" Faulkner, deceased, the old original Arkansas Traveler. On the east side of the hall, in quotations, were the words, "Young man, go West," the sentence pointing South, and meaning by Little Rock. The supper was gotten up in No. 1 style, being entirely the products of Arkansas. The speech of welcome was delivered by Gen. R. C. Newton in an earnest, heartfelt manner. He was pleased to have eye-witnesses in the State to see the people as they are, that their manners, habits, etc., may be observed. He invited us to come back and visit them, bringing our friends, and finally to come and stay; was glad the Northwest and Southwest were becoming known to each other, and hoped it might continue.

We left at an early hour for Malvern, remaining until good daylight, then taking the narrow-gauge railroad (now being built), making connection eight

miles out, with the stage line for Hot Springs, arriving there at three o'clock. Dinner, and a view of the place in the afternoon; visiting the springs on the hillside, 54 in number, many of which are hot enough to boil an egg, taking baths, buying specimens, etc., being the chief enjoyment. We started for Malvern early next morning, taking our train and going down to Arkadelphia, where they had prepared a barbecue for us.

Again taking the train, we went a few miles farther down into the cotton-fields, returned to Arkadelphia, where we had some short addresses, and then started on the return for Little Rock, where we arrived in time for breakfast. Here the party separated, some going by the Little Rock & Memphis Railroad as far as Forrest City, passing over both prairie and wooded lands, returning the same night; the balance going over the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad as far as Fort Smith, visiting the coal mines, &c.; returning the same night about an hour earlier than the other party. We took the sleepers again and were soon on our way back to St. Louis, where we arrived Sunday evening at six o'clock.

The society of Arkansas is peaceable and quiet, and the people are disposed to promote the prosperity of all, whether native or foreign settlers. High crimes and misdemeanors, in proportion to population, are as few as in any place we know of. The health of the State is very good; the counties along the Mississippi are subject to diseases in the autumn, but the people of middle and western Arkansas enjoy the best of health. The soil in the valleys of the rivers produces any crops that are grown in the temperate zone. The forests consist of the different kinds of oak, hickory, gum, maple, ash, white and black walnut. This is the cotton, corn and grass region. The higher lands have a light-colored top soil, with clay sub-soil, and are well adapted to grain, fruit and pasturage. The northwest counties are best for the apple; every portion is adapted to the peach and other fruits. The price of lands, for unimproved, varies from \$1 to \$5 per acre. Those who want a greater price than the above are not compelled by their necessities to sell, and are waiting for a better price. Labor is cheap, and in most cases plentiful. Good farm hands are employed at from \$12 to \$20 per month. Cattle, horses and mules are bought at reasonable rates. Farm labor goes on every month in the year. It seldom gets cold enough to stop clearing and fencing, or plowing lands at any season of the year. Two crops are frequently grown on the same land, corn, sweet potatoes, peas and beans being planted after wheat and oats have been taken in. Arkansas has 3,500 miles of water transportation, the Mississippi on her eastern border, the Arkansas, White, Black, St. Francis, Cache, Red and Ouachita rivers being the principal streams within. These rivers are generally navigable from six to twelve months of the year. In addition to her water facilities she has over 700 miles of completed railway, and ere many years every portion will be amply supplied.

We have "written up Arkansas" simply as we saw it, which is all that was asked, and the people of the North are expected to judge for themselves.

## FROM THE "BLUFFTON BANNER."

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W. J. CRAIG, EDITOR.

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It was about three P. M. when our special train left Malvern for Texarkana, Texas, and good time was made to the first stopping place, Arkadelphia, a very sprightly town, situated in one of the best sections of the State. The citizens of that place had in readiness a regular old-fashioned barbecue—three beeves, several shoats, six sheep, and a quantity of wild game—gotten up in the highest style of the culinary art. The feasting ended, our party returned to the cars, and, accompanied by a number of citizens of Clark county, together with a dozen or more of their handsome young ladies, proceeded south at a good rate of speed until night drew her mantle over the beautiful landscape. A few miles below Arkadelphia the cars stopped at an immense cotton-field, affording those who had never seen the like before an opportunity to watch a party of darkies picking the snowy product.

The programme contemplated a visit to Texarkana, but the delays at Hot Springs and Malvern cut off about 40 miles of the journey. Returning, a stop was made at Arkadelphia in order that the more enthusiastic might have another opportunity to air their eloquence. The speeches at the Reames Hotel were appropriate to the occasion and well timed, with perhaps one exception. The best of feeling prevailed, however, and it was not until a late hour that the meeting dissolved and we sought our places in the sleeping cars. Morning found us again at Little Rock, with an invitation to ride over the Fort Smith Railroad, or, if preferred, in the direction of Memphis. The party then divided about equally, those going east returning with the most enthusiastic accounts of the country they found as far as Duvall's Bluffs, near Memphis. The trip west was most delightful, and extended to Spadra Bluffs, the present terminus of the railroad, at which point the party were invited to continue the journey by stage to Fort Smith, Indian Territory. Quite a number accepted the invitation. I have not heard how many of them got their hair "lifted" over there.

I will not consume more space in a further description of the journey home from Little Rock, and in what I have already written I was obliged to study brevity and omit very many things deserving of mention. I desire, however, to indulge in a few observations of a general character, promising to do so in as few words as possible.

A word concerning Little Rock, the capital of the State. It is a neat little city of about 20,000 inhabitants, occupying a fine location on the south bank of the Arkansas river. At the close of the war the place had barely 5,000 population, and when we consider the outrageous manner in which her people have been plundered by infernal carpet-baggers, it is indeed a matter for surprise

that the city did not lapse into nothingness instead of making such satisfactory advancement. The local administration is now in the hands of a set of men who have an eye single to the welfare of the community, and a better era is thereby inaugurated. Little Rock must some day be a city of considerable commercial importance. With a mighty river at her feet, and railroads stretching to the north, south, east and west, she will be the natural distributing point for a large section of the finest country west of the Mississippi. Manufactories more than anything else are the especial want of Little Rock, and as the State fills up, capitalists will find that city the best location for all kinds of manufacturing establishments.

Of the State at large a great deal could be said without even entering upon more important details, and I will not therefore occupy more space than to mention one or two matters of a general character.

The government is entirely satisfactory to the whole people. There is no reign of terror, or Ku-Kluxism, any more than in Indiana or the most peaceable State in the Union. More deeds of violence are enacted in Indiana than in Arkansas. Life and property are as safe there as anywhere. Nay, more; the man who emigrates to Arkansas to find a home and act the part of an honest citizen will find in the people of that State a welcome which he could not find here. Their friendship is of no uncertain character, and their hospitality is proverbial. In their present condition they realize that they need immigration—capital and Northern muscle—and the hand of true friendship is promptly extended to all honest men who seek an abiding place there. The people have in good faith accepted the situation. If bitterness rankles in the bosoms of any, it was so carefully concealed as not to be discernible. They who wore the gray were at all the receptions, and uttered as loyal sentiments as our language can frame. The past is buried, undoubtedly buried beyond resurrection. I am not mistaken in this conclusion, for more than anything else, perhaps, I wanted to see and know the true condition of society there. I am fully satisfied that it is all that the most timid person could desire.

In an agricultural point of view Arkansas ranks high. The soil is rich and deep, enabling the farmers to raise good crops and play half their time. My attention was directed to a plantation that had been worked 60 years without a pound of any kind of fertilizing substance. The crops were good. So it is throughout the entire State. Farmers there know nothing of rotation of crops, the use of improved agricultural machinery, or the various appliances to which our Northern farmers are obliged to resort for the usual crops.

Timbered lands comprise a large proportion of the country, and the timber is excellent and of varieties similar to those of our own latitude.

In different parts of the State are found rich deposits of iron ore, zinc, lead, and other valuable metals; also marble, granite, limestone, salt and slate, in quantities extensive enough to occasion surprise that capital has not been lavishly expended thereon. Arkansas does not seem to be lacking in anything that would be available in the hands of a more enterprising people. Her population numbers about 600,000, about one-fourth of whom are negroes. The poorer

class of whites do not seem to be one whit superior to the negroes on general principles. Neither they nor the negroes work more than three days in the week. One is as lazy as the other. If they would expend one-half the labor on their crops that our Northern farmers do, the yield would be enormous.

Cotton is the great staple. The cotton country embraces about 6,500,000 acres, a portion of which has never been cultivated. The crop of 1871 was estimated at 300,000 bales, worth not less than \$75 per bale. The crop this year is the best ever raised in the State.

All kinds of grain and vegetables are successfully raised, nearly all of which are of a quality superior to those raised in the North. And it is naturally a better fruit country—the finest in the world.

The coal-fields embrace over 7,500,000 acres. It is an excellent article for manufacturing and domestic purposes, and yields largely, some veins being ten feet in thickness.

The future of Arkansas is brighter than that of any other State south of Mason and Dixon's line. She has been forever under a cloud, and her wealth of minerals, and other great natural advantages, have been almost entirely unknown. When the surplus population of the more crowded portions of the country realize the true situation there, it will not be long until there will be enough willing hands to develop those mighty resources, and Arkansas will speedily find her proper position in the sisterhood of States. She is destined to be one of the brightest stars in the constellation.

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## FROM THE "DECATUR PRESS."

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CORTEZ EWING, CORRESPONDENT.

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The editor of the *Press* having accepted the invitation of Hon. J. M. Loughborough to become the guest of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad in an excursion through the State of Arkansas, the writer of this article was delegated as the representative of that paper in the excursion, and having accepted the hospitality of that road and of the people of that State, it is due them, as well as the readers of this paper, to give a faithful, honest and fair statement of the condition of that State, its products and its resources.

The object of the excursion was to have published all over the Northwest the true condition of that neglected and almost unknown State; and the projectors, Hon. J. M. Loughborough, a Senator of the State of Arkansas, and Land Commissioner of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, and T. B. Mills & Co., real estate agents at Little Rock, spared no effort to make it a success.



On Tuesday night, September 28, four elegantly equipped Pullman coaches left the depot of that road at St. Louis with about 100 guests aboard, and on Wednesday morning the party breakfasted at Walnut Ridge, 225 miles from St. Louis. This station is between the Cache (pronounced Cash) river and Black river, is surrounded by dense forests, and has a fertile soil, with here and there a patch in cultivation. Here Judge Shirk has a plantation of 2,000 acres, upon which there is some corn and cotton now matured. After breakfast we proceeded to Little Rock, a distance of 346 miles from St. Louis, and were met by the citizens, who invited us to their hospitable homes, the writer being the guest of Dr. McAlmont. At night a magnificent banquet was spread before us, and the toasts and responses demonstrated the fact that Little Rock can produce more natural orators to the square foot than any city in the Union. Our party was deficient in this respect, and after three Indiana men had attempted responses, another, realizing the situation, proposed a voluntary toast, "The three d—d fools from Indiana," which elicited rounds of applause.

After the banquet we proceeded to Malvern, a railroad station 43 miles farther south, where leaving our train we were conveyed on flat cars on a narrow-gauge railroad about 10 miles, and thence by stage over a rough, mountainous country to Hot Springs, where we were entertained by the citizens, and a grand ball given at night. Having enjoyed the hospitalities of this city, the writer a guest of the Grand Central Hotel, we returned to Malvern and proceeded to Arkadelphia, on the south bank of the Ouachita (pronounced Washita) river, where an old-fashioned barbecue was provided for us. Having proceeded a few miles farther south we returned by rail to Little Rock, and from thence by the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railway 120 miles up the Arkansas river, and from thence returning via Little Rock and the Iron Mountain Railroad home, having traveled 744 miles in the State of Arkansas, and 1,684 miles altogether on this excursion.

Little Rock is a city claiming 20,000 inhabitants, on the south bank of the Arkansas river, having houses of modern architecture, one or more streets of Nicholson pavement, fancy teams and turnouts, and a live city generally, awake to the importance of immigration, and anxiously asking for our laborers, mechanics and artisans to come and make their homes with them.

Hot Springs is a city of 3,000 inhabitants, situated between two spurs of the Ozark Mountains, and occupies a valley which runs north and south. It is surrounded by hills, like the city of Bath in England and Baden-Baden in Germany. Its water is never-failing, and although hot enough to boil an egg, does not sicken the stomach when drank. As yet it is accessible only by 26 miles of rough staging from Malvern on the railroad, and still there are, on an average, 1,500 visitors there all the time, trying to restore injured health. The rich have good accommodations, while the poor tent on "Ral Hill." Most persons who come to these springs having venereal diseases claim that their ailment is "neuralgia," and the vulgar, by way of abbreviation, call the hill set apart for the poor thus afflicted, "Ral Hill." Its visitors are from all parts of the world, and those afflicted with scrofula, neuralgia and venereal diseases, as well as the consequences of intoxicants, go home invariably restored to health. It will soon be

accessible by rail. The title to the ground upon which it is situated will soon be settled, when its fortune cannot be estimated. It is isolated, and is supplied with butter, eggs, cabbage, potatoes, beef and pork from St. Louis and the North. This shows the indolence and worthlessness of the surrounding people.

The soil of Arkansas is as good as the average of States; its minerals, if fully developed, would fully equal if not surpass those of any other State; coal and iron are being found in abundance; its timber is magnificent, the large pine forests being inexhaustible. It needs development; its population has no industry; it does not contain the necessary laborers, farmers and mechanics to develop it, and the intelligent portion of her people are crying out about it and inviting the world to come within her borders and make their homes there.

There are no cattle, horses or hogs in Arkansas worth mentioning, except a few horses imported from the North. We can not conceive of a better speculation than to take a good stock of breeding animals of the kind indicated into that State and raise and sell to her people good stock, unless it be to take saw-mills and make and ship lumber from her timber.

The soil of Arkansas produces as good wheat, corn and hay as ours; cotton is produced in large quantities; the climate is better than ours; and with all these advantages we can hardly conceive why so many of her people are so worthless. And yet our country was inhabited to some extent by the same class of people 30 years ago, and as industry and civilization advanced the worthless and indolent moved on, just as it will be in Arkansas when the tide of immigration sets in that direction, as it surely will.

We acknowledge the obligations we are under to that magnificent railroad between Indianapolis and St. Louis, the Vandalia; and to Senator Loughborough, T. B. Mills & Co., and the hospitable people of Arkansas; and if we have done them any injustice we will correct it if our attention be called to it.

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## FROM THE "FORT WAYNE GAZETTE."

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H. H. ROBINSON, CORRESPONDENT.

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### LETTER NO. I.

Three-fourths of Arkansas, probably, are in the woods, and yet its agriculture, although far from systematic, makes a noticeable exhibit. Such products as are named below were taken to the fairs at Chicago and St. Louis last fall, and they suggest that cotton and corn are not its only perfectible crops. Wheat six feet high, with six-inch heads well filled; oats seven feet high, with heads eighteen inches long; millet nine feet high, with nine-inch heads; red clover of four tons to the acre; timothy five and a half feet high, yielding four tons to

the acre; red top four feet high, giving three tons to the acre; blue grass four and a half feet high; orchard grass five feet high and yielding three tons to the acre; Hungarian grass four feet high from the second crop this year; corn-stalks, one nineteen feet high, and another of twelve ears, five of which were eleven inches long. The list is quoted upon the authority of a gentleman who was commissioned to represent Arkansas upon those occasions. Much attention is also given to the orchard and the vineyard in many parts of the State, and the climate is very congenial to both. Even the Press and Bench may be said to be pomological, for it has been stated with emphatic pride that on the farm of the venerable Woodruff, who founded the *Little Rock Gazette* 56 years ago, a quince was grown last season with a weight of over 14 ounces and a circumference of over 13 inches; and that on the farm of Judge Walker, of the Supreme Court, in Washington county, a Fall Queen apple grew to a weight of 17 ounces. His Honor, who has been appointed by the Governor to speak for the State at Philadelphia next year, and who, by the way, is reputed to be an accomplished and eloquent gentleman, of advanced years, has further bucolic credit in the production of corn whose 42 ears make a bushel, and wheat whose average is 20 bushels. With such samples before him the skeptical outsider may blush, or possibly be induced to send for a copy of the *Spirit of Arkansas*, published at Little Rock, and glean therefrom a full harvest of facts in detail. If he should be challenged to deny that the average value of land per acre throughout the State is only \$5.25, that the average production per acre is \$31.50, and that therefore the profit in such case resulting must be within a fraction of 500 per cent., let him confess and avoid the issue, as the lawyers have it, and go west of the Mississippi (and just south of Missouri) for a farm. He will then be further informed that, while too little attention has been directed to stock-raising, cattle, sheep, hogs and poultry are becoming considerable—except where Sambo is excessively tempted to have fresh meat, and the night is dark, and the lamb, the pig or the pullet is in his way as he returns from town or meeting—and that the sky, the field, and occasional shelter will sustain them and make them abound. The sixtieth thousand farm awaits him. If he avoids the furrow notwithstanding, let him enter the mighty woods of cypress, gum, pine, oak, hickory, walnut, maple, and the like, with axe or saw-mill, and the dawn of fortune will descend his tree-tops. If he yet doubts, let him go to Little Rock, find a regular Dr. Townsend in a former Hoosier of the name, and hunt for even deer within six miles of the capital, or bag abundant game in fields or woods around, or try the distant canebrake for a bear—and cease to hug delusion.

It is difficult to speak of the mineral endowment of Arkansas without enthusiasm. Gold and silver, ores of iron, zinc, lead, copper, gypsum, manganese and antimony, as well as limestone, slate and marble, are deposited in its banks of wealth, while vast fields of coal are yielding their treasure to the touch of man. The region of the Arkansas is full of coal from a point somewhat north of Little Rock to Fort Smith, on the western border of the State, embracing an area, on both sides of the river, of 12,000 square miles. Three mines are in operation on the line of the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad to make the prize available.

The nearest to the capital is the Ouita, in Pope county, distant 70 miles, whose tract of 500 acres is claimed to have a vein of semi-anthracite three feet thick. The coal is excellent fuel, and experts have certified to its superior properties for smelting iron. It contains over 80 per cent. of fixed carbon and less than one per cent. of sulphur. The Spadra mine is in Johnson county, 100 miles from Little Rock. It represents 1,800 acres of property, 1,500 of which is supposed to have a continuous vein of semi-anthracite from three and a half to four feet in thickness. Its shaft is 45 feet deep, and its main and side galleries are capacious. It employs from 20 to 40 men, and produces some 50 tons per day. Its coal contains more than 85 per cent. of fixed carbon, and the late Prof. D. D. Owen, State Geologist, and other scientists, have lauded it especially for the manufacture of iron. The Horsehead mine is also in Johnson county, and is 116 miles from Little Rock and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the track of the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad. It has a shaft of 37 feet, and a seam 4 1-6 feet thick in a field of 1,200 acres. Its coal has fixed carbon of less than 80 per cent., and it has been pronounced by such chemists as Chauvenet and Blair to be "a semi-anthracite of excellent quality, and showing a smaller ash than the vast majority of coal sold in St. Louis, whether bituminous or anthracite." The Spadra Company has also a broad field of iron ore which is claimed to realize 46 per cent. of pig, and yield 10,000 tons per acre. The Kellogg Lead Mines, situated in Pulaski county, 10 miles from Little Rock, were discovered in 1847, but are now in operation for the first time. Their ore, which is argentiferous (having traces of gray sulphuret from 400 to 1,500 ounces to the ton), is claimed to have an average of 80 per cent. of the valuable metal. The Bellah Lead and Silver Mines, of Sevier county, are part of the same vein, and yield 73 per cent. of lead, a ton of which contains 52 ounces of silver. In Newton county there are nitre beds from which saltpetre was largely taken during the war, and at Cave Creek the Boston Mountain Mining and Smelting Company, a Chicago enterprise, has begun its works.

The State has sought to encourage these means of development, and kindred ones, by exempting capital engaged in "the manufacture of cotton, woolen goods and yarns, agricultural implements, in tanneries, in the manufacture of cotton-seed oil, in mining and in smelting furnaces," from taxation for seven years from the 13th of October, 1874, the date upon which the new Constitution was ratified by the people. There are probably in the State 2,000 manufactories of various kinds, 500 saw mills, 350 grist mills, 50 tanneries, 20 carding mills and 350 places of cotton ginning, with an aggregate capital of \$4,000,000, and there are need and profit for many more. Such outlines perforce suggest the scope of productiveness and wealth for a State so generally decried.

It is neither convenient nor advisable to review the political commotion which has marked the State for the past few years. The present Constitution, adopted by a popular majority exceeding 50,000, seems to have secured the rights of all classes, and to have designed an administration of affairs equal to the wants of the State, and accordant to the spirit of the times. The committee appointed by the convention which proposed it, to commend the Constitution to the people, stated much of earnest truth in this paragraph:

"It is believed the main corrective of the abuses which we have for several years past suffered will be found in that feature of the Constitution which submits all elections of civil officers to the people, thereby depriving the Executive Department of the State of the power of appointment. The necessity of free and fair elections, uncontrolled by partisan appliances, has long been felt by our people. The abuse of this right—so long held inviolable—has stifled the popular voice, given the reins of government to a faction, reduced our people to bankruptcy and impoverishment, inaugurated intestine feuds and revolutions, and disgraced our State."

And it is confirmed to-day by the testimony of well-nigh every leading politician of the Republican party. It is not infrequent to hear an avowal from that source that the methods by which the State has been carried and managed for years were dishonest and oppressive. The kind of men who assumed the mastery of Arkansas after reconstruction, and the results of their effrontery, have been stated by an eye-witness who, as an honest man and a reputable member of the Republican party, was inclined to present facts with severity. He is a Republican now, and a substantial merchant of Little Rock. In the *Philadelphia Bulletin* of November 17, 1869, appeared this extract from a letter written by him thereto from the capital:

"The political condition of the State is a most wretched and abominable one. A mean and corrupt class of Northern men, thrown upon the country by the accident of war, have worked themselves into the confidence of the negro, and they have used him to ride into power and control the politics of the State. Irresponsible men are placed in the highest and most important offices, and incompetency and corruption poison the sources of legislation and of justice, and lower the standard of public morals to a degree most painful to contemplate. Suffice it to say that to this great evil Arkansas is indebted for almost everything that retards her moral, social and material advancement."

The picture was doubtless true, for your correspondent has seen many of its characters. It happily does not portray, however, the great majority of Republicans who have gone there, in the exercise of the American citizen's right, to earn their bread and aid to advance the unfortunate State. Nor does it reflect the condition of affairs at present.

Governor Garland seems to be the best possible choice the people could have made to conciliate the factions and administer the State under the new constitution. A native of the State, an able lawyer, and a shrewd, affable, energetic man of affairs, he has general respect and acquiescence. In fact, there are colored legislators I could name who could be induced to "vote for him to-morrow" if that were possible, albeit their appreciation of the efficient executive may not yield votes in the next General Assembly to make Augustus H. Garland Senator in place of Powell Clayton. By the way, and by the way of conclusion hereto, the sitting Legislature has shown its contempt of the latter, who has been the autocrat of the State for years, by reducing the county bearing his name to Clay. Such is the weight of association.

## LETTER NO. II.

However inviting in climate and soil the State may be, the possible immigrant thereto is apt to inquire about its provisions for public order, education, debt and taxation. In these respects Arkansas, of course, is not comparable with the States northeast and northwest of the Mississippi, to whom "the shock, the shout, the groan of war" have brought far less of misfortune. And yet for a remote State, once branded as "the retreat of guerillas," with a rude and mixed population and a moderate supply of wealth, refinement and enterprise, its public peace is well preserved. There used to be acts of violence—when Republican officials in Pope and Johnson counties especially were limited to less than one term by the assassin's decree, and of plunder—when even invalids in quest of the remedial springs were waylaid and robbed by occasional bands of outlaws; but an operative militia law, supported by public sentiment, has made life and property reasonably secure. A great preventive of the deadly quarrels that used to rage has been made in the statute against concealed weapons. "Any person who shall wear or carry any pistol of any kind whatever, or any dirk, butcher or bowie-knife, or a sword or a spear in a cane, brass or metal knuckles, or razor, as a weapon," is liable to a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$100. The law allows one, however, to wear or carry a weapon on his own premises, or on a journey, with his baggage. A further regulation for the public peace punishes the ku-klux with a fine of \$500, and with imprisonment for 10 years, and renders him forever infamous. The State has, moreover, made a solemn guaranty of order to the nation, in return for the action of Congress recognizing its right of self-government, which was transmitted to Speaker Blaine through the Governor, by direction of the General Assembly. I quote part of a resolution adopted by the Legislature expressing it: "Arkansas is hereby pledged to a fair, just and faithful enforcement of the laws, to the end that all people may still have their rights, and that her course shall be charity to all and malice toward none." All officers who fail to prosecute offenders against such laws are liable to a fine of \$25 to \$300 and removal from office for the first dereliction.

An observation of several weeks, in widely separated sections of the State, leads me to attest its pacific condition. The relations of the races and of the parties seem free from bitterness or excitement. Crime exists to a considerable extent, but its form is mainly that of grand larceny, which there means the theft of property of the value of two dollars and upwards. It is but just to note that three-fourths of the inmates of the penitentiary are blacks who have committed that offense. There may be desperate characters in the State, who go armed *cap-a-pie*, but they so seldom emerge from their coverts to trespass upon person or property that their existence is a question of extreme doubt. The worst specimens of mankind seen by your correspondent were of the ungainly, unkempt and stolid sort, who seemed too lazy to raise a violent hand; and the only dangerous weapon observed was drawn in his presence by the excellent sheriff

of Pulaski county, who deliberately opened his dirk and cut a plug of tobacco, for his own use, on a prominent corner of the capital.

The State has a good system of public schools, which lacks means, however, to extend its benefits to both whites and blacks for more than three months of the year. The permanent fund in the treasury is about \$30,000. Added to this are sales of seminary, saline and 16th section lands—most of which have been made on credit, and for whose payment actions are now pending on behalf of the State—a tax of two mills on the dollar, which counties may increase by popular vote to five, a *per capita* tax of one dollar on each voter, and all fines and forfeitures. Last year, by reason of irregularities, the revenue from these sources only reached \$60,000, but there are delinquencies of \$100,000 from which something will be realized. \$400,000 are expected to be raised for school purposes the coming year. The State has about 400,000 acres remaining from national grants, 1,000,000 acres forfeited for taxes, and 2,500,000 more unconfirmed and in dispute. The General Assembly lately adopted a memorial to Congress for the donation of the balance of the public lands to the State, representing that they had remained unsold for 35 years; that the sale of the Government's domain only defrays the expense of its land office; that education is indispensable to the prosperity of the United States; and that "the unfortunate circumstances surrounding this State since the year 1861 have placed it in such an embarrassed financial condition that a suitable system of education cannot be established and maintained without assistance." That appeal for even 8,000,000 acres, lying in every county of the State, ought to be effective. It appears from a report of Hon. J. C. Corbin, who was the colored Superintendent of Public Instruction, that for the year ending September 30th, 1873, there were 1,161 teachers, 1,035 school-houses, nearly 60,000 pupils, and 107,000 white and 37,000 colored children, between the ages of 5 and 21, who might have been taught. The revenue for that year was \$258,456, and the amount paid to teachers \$259,747. No report has been published since, and the office of Superintendent has been abolished, and its duties now devolve upon the Secretary of State. The High Schools throughout Arkansas are of a standard grade and are well attended. The Industrial University, at Fayetteville, with its Government grant, and aid from the State and the county of Washington, the place of its location, has a fund of \$355,000, commodious buildings, good appointments and good prospects.

In White county, at Judsonia, a Baptist colony from the University of Chicago owns 250 acres, upon which they have formed an attractive and circumspect village and established a college which is not designed to be sectarian. The location, 50 odd miles northwest of Little Rock, near the Iron Mountain Railway, on the Little Red river, is said to be favorable, and the future of the colony promising. At Pine Bluff ex-Superintendent Corbin, who is an intelligent and energetic gentleman, has been appointed by the Governor to inaugurate a Normal College. The Friends are well represented in the work of education by Southland College and Normal Institute, in Phillips county, nine miles from Helena, in a healthy and cultivated region. It began as an asylum, fostered by the 56th regiment of U. S. colored volunteers, for the education of destitute and

orphan children of the black race. In 1866 barracks were removed to the site from Helena, and 30 of the 40 acres, deadened and fenced, were deeded in trust to the Missionary Board of the Indiana Yearly Meeting at Richmond. Since then 40 acres more have been added to the property, and ample and attractive buildings have been erected to meet the requirements of the growing institution. The transition from "a mule stable," in which the sagacious Matron (Mrs. Alida Clark) taught at Helena, in 1864, to the liberal appointments of to-day, marks the thrift in which it has been conducted. It has advanced from an asylum in 1864 to a normal institute in 1869, and Southland College in 1874, with an attendance of 108 (24 in the normal class), a thorough course of four years, good instructors, library and apparatus. The present teacher of mathematics learned the alphabet seven years ago, at the age of 20, and bears the elegant name of Chandler Paschal. Sixty-five graduates of the place are now engaged as teachers there and elsewhere. The Quakers did well when they commissioned Calvin Clark to superintend so important a trust, and Calvin did his duty no less when he chose his wife for Matron. Aside from some aid through the Peabody fund and private subscribers (of whom let Whittier be named), the college is supported by the Yearly Meeting at Richmond. Friends in England, however, contribute \$1,000 per year for the education of orphans and of widows' daughters in the normal department.

In December, 1874, the General Assembly—which declared itself the first one chosen by the people since 1868 that had been allowed to meet—created a State Board of Finance, with the Governor at its head, to issue and negotiate certain bonds, amounting to \$250,000, to defray the public expenses. It afterwards took occasion to pass a joint resolution empowering the board to correspond with the bondholders of the State for the "settlement of all just debts on a basis which will be satisfactory to the people and within their ability to pay," and duly report their action to the Legislature. From the four preambles to that measure, which inveigh against the usurping and profligate administration of the State for the six years preceding, it appears that the public debt was very large and involved. In 1868 it is represented to have been, less cash in the treasury, under \$3,000,000. From July, 1868, to October, 1874, more than \$6,000,000, an average of \$1,000,000 per year, was derived as revenue, and a floating debt was created of nearly \$2,000,000, making a total of over \$8,500,000 to represent the income of that period. Of that sum some \$500,000 were expended for interest and for the sinking fund, and an average of over \$1,000,000 was used to pay the annual expense of a government which, the Legislature claimed, should not have exceeded \$300,000. In those six years \$3,350,000 of improvement bonds, \$5,350,000 of railroad aid bonds, and \$3,000,000 of levee bonds were added to the burdens of the State. On the first of July, 1875, as your correspondent has been authoritatively informed, the entire principal of the debt of the State was \$13,379,000, and the total interest \$3,719,000—a startling aggregate of \$17,098,000. A million and a half of the principal represents Auditor's warrants and Treasurer's certificates, and about the same amount is for interest due on \$842,000 of old



bonds for the benefit of State and real estate banks, whose mortgage bonds the State holds in the sum of \$2,250,000. The only bonds drawing more than six per cent. interest are the levee bonds, bearing seven per cent., and the last issue bearing ten per cent.

The General Assembly, in adjourned session last month, acted upon the recommendations of the Governor, and authorized the State Board of Finance to issue bonds (at a rate not less than 50 per cent. of their face) to secure necessary loans, and also to apply unappropriated money in the treasury to the payment of any obligations of the State issued since April, 1874. There are some \$80,000 in the public coffers, which are guarded from speculation by the penalties of fine or imprisonment and disqualification to hold office in the State for five years. Its debt seems overwhelming to a State like Arkansas, but much of it may be honorably reduced by compromise; much is, perhaps, a nominal liability, and the confidence due the State, and its probable development, will insure more favorable loans if needed, and enable it to meet accruing interest and the ultimate principal.

The new charter of the State has excellent provisions on the subject of taxation. The General Assembly cannot levy any taxes exceeding one per cent. of the assessed value of the property in the State for any given year. No county can impose a tax of more than five mills on the dollar for all purposes, except one not exceeding that percentage to meet debts created before the present Constitution. "Any citizen of any county, city or town may institute suit in behalf of himself and all others interested, to protect the inhabitants thereof against the enforcement of any illegal exactions whatever." For the year ending July 1st, 1876, the State has ordered a tax of five mills on the dollar for its administration, three mills to meet the interest on the public debt, and two mills and a tax of one dollar per voter for the public schools.

Not many years ago the assessments of property were liable to be capricious, for officers were allowed commissions on the amount of property listed, as well as on the taxes collected; but the present method requires equality and uniformity. The cash value of personal and real property assessed in 1872 is estimated at \$130,000.

It may be well to add, in this connection, that the Constitution is very liberal upon the exemption of property from execution. The honest but unfortunate single man or woman, resident of the State, may select \$200 worth of personal property, in addition to wearing apparel, which shall be exempt from the grasp of Shylock; and the married person, or head of a family, may have likewise \$500 in property, clothing added, free from execution, as well as a homestead of one acre in the city or of 160 acres, with improvements, in the country; provided he has paid for his real estate, and owes no creditor for repairs thereto, nor the public for taxes.

## LETTER NO. III.

The first Legislature under the new Constitution held an adjourned session during November—in a capitol somewhat less plain and shabby, be it said, than the forlorn structure at Indianapolis—and your correspondent saw the manner of men of which it was composed. The Senate is founded on a rock, even the little rock whose ledge extends for many rods along the river and gives the capital city its peculiar name. From its eastern windows, moreover, may be seen the big rock towering in the distance—a prospect properly denied the lower house. It has small lobbies and galleries and moderate furniture. Noticeable over the President's chair are good lithographs of Washington and Lincoln, framed in ebony and gilt, while a sizeable lambrequin separates the illustrious dead and adds a subdued effect to the wall. Beneath the ornamentation sat the Hon. Bradley Bunch, a Senator instead of a Lieutenant-Governor, as heretofore. The President is a sensible officer, of long residence in the State, and wide experience in its affairs. The Senate contains 13 lawyers, 13 farmers, three merchants, one editor, and one ex-minister—in all 31 members of a very respectable body. Several of them have served the State for many years, and most of them are men of mature age. Senator Turner, who is one of the ablest lawyers of the State, and a North Carolinian by birth, expressed the thought to your correspondent that he had heard of our prominent fellow-citizen, the ex-Commissioner to the Sandwich Islands, who now presides over the Criminal Court of Allen county, to-wit, the Hon. James W. Borden, also a native of that Atlantic State. The Republican strength of the upper chamber consists of Col. Haycock, of Jefferson county, and the Hon. William H. Grey, colored, of Phillips, gentlemen of worth and public spirit. As the latter is the only representative of his race in this branch of the Legislature, and as he has special merits also, he is accorded the notice which follows.

Mr. Grey was born in Virginia 45 years ago as a free mulatto, and passed several of his younger years in Washington City, where indeed he was a sprightly folder of documents for the House, and a favorite of Henry A. Wise. He took advantage of his surroundings, gained a respectable education, and fitted himself to become an exhorter of the Methodist faith. In that capacity he came to Arkansas in 1864, from St. Louis. He afterwards engaged in business, and attended considerably to the interests of the Republican party and of the State. He has received marks of popular favor, and held the important office of Commissioner of Lands and Emigration. He won distinction at Philadelphia in 1872, as the first colored delegate to address a national convention. His effort upon that occasion is said to have been very eloquent and impressive, and he has the reputation of being one of the ablest speakers in the State. Of medium size, compactly formed, dignified in his bearing, with good features and pleasant address, the colored Senator cuts as good a figure as any of them in the hall.

The House has no distinguished members, and is chiefly composed of farmers, of whom there are 70 of the 93 Representatives. Four lawyers, seven physi-

cians, two preachers, two teachers, two mechanics, and an occasional "farmer and preacher," farmer and physician, and farmer and merchant, complete the roster. If the assembly is not marked by ability it deserves credit for professions of religion, as 81 of its members are connected with various denominations. It is an interesting fact that 86 of the body are natives of the South, 10 of them having had birth in Arkansas. Three Buckeyes, one Sucker, one Scotchman and one Switzer represent its northern and foreign elements. Of the 11 Republicans in the House, nine are colored, and of the latter all can read print, but only four can write. Eight of the blacks have been slaves, and seven of them in the State for which they now aid to perfect laws. Copeland, of Crittenden county, is the noted one of the colored members. He was born and educated at Oberlin, came to the State five years ago, has practiced law for three years, and gained some property. He is a mulatto, 30 years old, of tall and active form, and has considerable effectiveness as a speaker. He is probably not much below the best capacity of the House. The five counties represented therein by gentlemen of color are Phillips, (3), Jefferson, (3), Crittenden, Desha and Lee, the first two named being the wealthiest counties, except Pulaski, in the State. Speaker Pennington bears an historic name, but he will probably never be urged to be a distant successor of William, of New Jersey, in the chair of the national House. The plainness of the hall of Representatives, it is wonderful to be said, *exceeds* that of the State House at Indianapolis; but then acoustics and galleries and the portraits of Washington, Lincoln, and even Grant, entitle the place to a general award of superiority to the former. There seems to have been nothing mean about the late General Assembly. It appropriated \$15,000 for a respectable exhibition at Philadelphia next summer, and in both Houses positions were given to the press and (door-) posts to gentlemen of color. The appointee in the House was one of the most democratic fellows available—tall, awkward, dirty, ragged and coatless; but it must not be concluded that he was worthy thus to serve the Assembly or to represent his progressive race. To end the subject, it may be remarked that Thomas W. Newton, Esq., the worthy Secretary of the Senate, is the only native of the State whom I recollect to have heard pronounce its name without the final "saw," but possibly more of *sas* is permissible from such a source than from the alien or the visitor.

What the 30,000 Grangers in the State propose to effect is not fully disclosed. Their Executive Committee, of which Attorney-General Hughes is chairman, has had a secret and protracted conference, and one of their ablest champions—Judge Jones, of Phillips county—took advantage of the session of the Legislature to make an able speech in their behalf in one of the halls of the capitol. It is obvious that their organization has done much to promote agriculture and improve the social condition of the farmers, and it seems probable that the plan of co-operative stores soon to be undertaken will have some considerable effect upon trade. That plan limits the capital and shares of a given establishment, and divides its annual profits among the members of the Grange according to the proportion of their purchases to the sales. It also requires that goods shall be sold at current prices, and not at underbidding and precarious rates. The organ

of the Grangers at the capital has been devoted to the cause of inflation, but Attorney-General Hughes informed your correspondent that there had been no authority for such advocacy, and that the Order throughout the State was not committed to that issue; and yet I have met very few representatives of the league who have not expressed themselves in favor of the specious but pernicious cause. The presence in the Legislature of those who classify themselves merchants *and* farmers, preachers *and* farmers, physicians *and* farmers, as well as the large majority of agriculturists on joint ballot, suggests how effective the Grangers may become in politics, over which, it is only just to say, they claim to exert no organized influence. They assuredly hold the balance of power, however, whether they intend to make weight or make light of public affairs.

Little Rock is not inaptly named the City of Roses, for in the social quarters of the capital the bloom and fragrance of those royal flowers abound. A few handsome residences, and many delightful homes, inclosed in ample grounds, and shaded with maple, elm, oak, sycamore, pine, pecan, magnolia and the China tree, give signs of taste and affluence. The fumes of manufacture have not become so dense as to impair the rose and the myrtle, or to inform the stranger where skilled mechanics may in groups be found.

The site of Little Rock is high, undulating and picturesque. The Arkansas gives it wide boundary as it bends from the northwest to the southeast, and the Fourche range of small mountains makes a distant limit on the west. The plateau between the two has an area for a city of 150,000 instead of 15,000 inhabitants, the probable population of the place to-day. As one approaches the city from the depot of the Iron Mountain road, he has a full view on his right of the high stone walls and the upper portions of the penitentiary. On his left, perched upon the southern bank of the river, are a few abodes which bear the vulgar and suggestive name of "Robbers' Row." Senators Clayton and Dorsey live on that literally ragged edge of the Arkansas. The hilly and sandy roads from the depot to the plane of the city are apt to disappoint the visitor, and lead him to expect a rural capital. Long stretches of clay and weeds confirm the anticipation, but a drive through Markham and Main, its thoroughfares of trade, the several streets of residence, or about the Arsenal and Fair Grounds, reveals how much of substance and beauty the city really has. A handsome railway bridge of iron spans the river at the northeast, and from the old landing, a few squares south, a ferry-boat, propelled by steam, crosses it to Argenta, a neat and lively village on the eastern shore. North of the bridge Big Rock, at a distance of three miles from the capital, shows its bluff front of 500 feet, as if proud of a range of bluestone, slate and quartz, and far circling woods complete the attractive landscape. The famous rock is 100 yards or so above the levee—whose trade, although yet considerable, has been reduced from the bulk of former years by the competing railway—and it extends some 80 feet into the river, with a height of 40 and a width of 90 feet. Its formation is of slate and quartz, in which even aureate traces have been found. At this point, in the commercial center of the city, the gas-works of the city are located. They cost \$175,000, a small amount of which went to the old Fort Wayne firm of Murray & Baker for

castings. They furnish 50,000 cubic feet of gas, of 16 candle power, per day, at the rate of \$5 per 1,000—the profitableness of which supply may be inferred from a premium of 150 per cent. on the company's limited shares of stock. Twelve miles of main afford the city a large quantity of its artificial light. The only other manufactory in the city of any prominence is the planing mill of Cook, Gibb & Co., established nine years ago. It has broad facilities, and has given constant employment in better days to 100 men. There has been some difficulty in the firm which at present cripples the business.

A sentence may be introduced here to state that the capital offers abundant material and inducements for the manufacture of agricultural implements, furniture, hubs and spokes, leather and cotton goods. The jobbing business of the city is confined to five groceries, three dry goods houses, and two hardware stores, and aggregates about \$3,000,000 per year. The retail trade is large and active, and is mainly conducted by Jewish houses, of which there are not less than 50 in the place. The majority of the merchants of Little Rock are from the North, and they do not seem to be distressed by ostracism. The cotton trade is especially brisk, although the capital is not in the most productive belt of the staple, and shipments of it, from October to March, will average 1,500 bales per week. Thirteen churches, some commodious but none of marked architecture, do much to subdue the old Adam in the free and easy populace. They represent the denominations thus: Three Methodist, two Presbyterian, two Baptist, one Episcopal, one Hebrew, one Roman Catholic, two colored Methodist, and one colored Baptist. The Catholics have a large convent here. The Opera House is a creditable public hall. It has a capacity for a lucrative audience—as Haverley's Minstrels must have thought when their receipts one night this season reached \$1,200. The Metropolitan is the only hotel of any size, and that is kept on the European plan. The restaurant adjoining it is not what it should be, and one has to walk two squares to reach the modest quarters of Mr. Frank Mourey—an old Fort Wayner, be it recorded—to get a meal well prepared and of good variety. The Anthony House was some time since destroyed by fire, and it has left an excellent site for a much needed successor. The banking capital of Little Rock does not exceed, if it equals, \$225,000. The Merchants' National Bank had a capital of \$150,000, but it has been largely reduced. The German Savings Bank has a capital of \$50,000, and private brokers represent whatever more there may be. Accommodations from these sources seem less than progressive trade demands.

The press of the city is limited to a couple of dailies, a German weekly, and the monthly *Spirit of Arkansas*. The *Gazette* is the leading issue of the State, and, with one or two exceptions, the oldest newspaper published west of the Mississippi river. It is in its fifty-sixth year, and was founded by the now venerable and hale Wm. E. Woodruff, who left New York a dozen years before young Greeley went to the metropolis to perfect his knowledge of the “art preservative.” The paper is conducted by Major Wm. E. Woodruff, Jr., a son of the former, who is supposed to make the State organ pay. The *Evening Star* is a neat and sprightly sheet, issued from the office of the *Republican*, which

suspended in April last upon the Democratic accession to power, after a successful career of eight years. It did the public printing from 1868 to 1874, and had a daily issue of 1,800 copies and a weekly of 4,500. The management of the paper was committed to Capt. John G. Price, and its political editorship came largely from Chief Justice McClure, "Poker Jack," then incumbent. Their joint efforts won a surplus of \$53,000, which was lost through the failure of the Stoddard bank. Capt. Price is an Indianian (whose father is a physician at Valparaiso), and he has the corresponding pluck to make considerable out of that completely equipped office yet. The *Spirit* is a large and enterprising paper, "devoted to the material interests of Arkansas." It claims a circulation of 60,000 copies, and it does as much to promote immigration and give advance to the State as all other agencies combined. Messrs. T. B. Mills & Co. left Kansas but three years ago, yet to-day their press and real estate business reflect indeed the progressive spirit of the State. The army of 60,000 immigrants who have come this year to turn the sword into the plowshare must enroll many thousands of their recruits. There are but four dailies in the State outside of the capital, and 55 issues in all, and 32 counties are without a local publication.

The bar of Little Rock is a strong one, and that expression recalls the sonorous remark often quoted of Judge Poland, chairman of the Congressional committee to investigate the late difficulties of the State, as he blandly sat in the ante-room of a certain saloon in the city and ordered the drinks for a party of friends: "I'll take a whisky toddy for mine—and, Mr. Waiter, make it rather strong, sir, rather strong!" Major Gallagher, a pre-eminent chancery lawyer, ex-Attorney Gen. Yonley, (whose cast and manner suggest Ben. Butler), ex-Senator Rice, his brother Milton L., ex-Chancellor Rose, Governor Garland, Judge McClure, Gen. Newton, Col. Howard, (a talented pupil of Edwin M. Stanton's), Judge Warwick, Gen. Pomeroy, and Gen. Bishop, are the principal lawyers of the capital city, and their varied accomplishments can supply professional services for a future metropolis of the State larger than the most enthusiastic doth predict. The Bench of the Capital is very respectable. The Supreme Court is efficient, and the Circuit and Chancery courts are of distinguished merit. Chancellor Eakin, by the way, published a paper at Washington, the seat of Hempstead county, in the southwestern corner of the State, before and during the war, and his issue, the *Washington Telegraph*, I think, was the only journal in the State that had continuous publication during that doleful period. He relates some sadly interesting incidents of the difficulties and losses he incurred to accomplish that result.

The charitable institutions of the State located at the capital are for the deaf and dumb and for the blind, but provision for them in grounds and buildings is moderate. The penitentiary of Arkansas holds 350 convicts, 70 of whom are prisoners of the United States, and a large majority of them are colored, nine of the number being women. The Governor, in his message to the lately adjourned General Assembly, reported the buildings of the penitentiary as too small and as out of repair, and recommended the enlargement of the grounds

and the erection of "additional buildings sufficient for the safe-keeping and comfort of the prisoners." At the instance of the editor of the *Evening Star*, of Little Rock, the Board of Commissioners of the penitentiary made recent inquiries into the management, and reported that the charges of insufficiency of food and clothing, of overworking the prisoners, and of "unmerciful beating" of them were not sustained, but they found that there had been "cases of beating and striking contrary to the rules," and they condemned "the vicious system" by which, under contract with the State, the lessee had made the convicts serviceable beyond the walls of the prison.

It seems that in 1873 the Commissioners leased the penitentiary to John M. Peck for 10 years, with the privilege of employing the prisoners outside of it, on condition that he free the State from any expense for the conduct of the institution. An assignee of Mr. Peck's interest—Col. Zeb. Ward, who has had years of experience in Kentucky and Tennessee in the management of prisons—took charge of the place in 1874, and gave a special bond to fulfill the duties of lessee. For 21 months before the first agreement was made by the Commissioners it had cost the State \$520,000 to run the reformatory machine. Under the present system the State is exempt from expense. Whether the lessee has made much from the employment of the convicts for hire or for the cultivation of one of the largest cotton plantations in Pulaski county is not known to the writer—who adds, however, that he never saw a healthier body of men than the 100 prisoners who one evening in October were returning with very few guards, and in good mood, from the valley of the Arkansas. Several of them straggled on the way, but made no effort for an easy escape from whatever of durance vile the penitentiary may represent.

The Arsenal is worth a visit, not only for the sightly and commodious buildings, with their important stores, upon the attractive 40 acres, but for the society of such good representatives of the U. S. army as Major Wainright, Capt. Rose and Lieutenants Morrison, Rosencrantz, Woodbury and Cushman, of the 16th Infantry. The garrison consists of companies "C" and "I" of that regiment, and the troops and their quarters are a credit to the Government. The officers, especially the juniors, are duly gallant in the best circles of the city, and their opinions commend alike the attractiveness and cordiality of the ladies of Little Rock.

A couple of miles southwest of the Arsenal is the national cemetery, where rest the remains of some 6,000 soldiers of the Republic, under a neatly sodded surface, dotted with little blocks of marble bearing the name of the deceased, and the number which refers to him in the records of the Superintendent's office. The grounds are tastefully prepared and completely drained, and at the entrance to them is a newly built lodge of noticeable style and comfort. Much of the credit of the improvements made during the past year in the cemetery is due to Lieut. Morrison, of the 16th U. S. Infantry, son of an ex-Treasurer of Indiana, and himself Lieutenant-Colonel of its 164th regiment of volunteers. Separated by a stone wall from the nation's dead is the Confederate cemetery, and on last decoration day survivors of both sides of the late war met to pay the tributes of

the occasion, and to hear words of fraternal meaning from the orator who stood upon that artificial barrier.

The schools, which are well conducted, and are attended by some 700 white and 500 colored children throughout the year, and many other subjects relating to the city and its substantial county of Pulaski, must remain unnoticed. Even Joseph Brooks, the distinguished Postmaster of the city, ex-minister, ex-editor, and ex-Governor, and who came within one vote of the Methodist Bishopric of Iowa, and almost as near a seat in the U. S. Senate, and who in brains, earnestness and oratory surpasses, perhaps, any other citizen of the State, can only have this complimentary sentence.

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## FROM THE "INDIANA PATRIOT," ROCKVILLE.

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G. W. COLLINGS, EDITOR.

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### PAPER I.

The great Northwestern Editorial Excursion left the Plum street depot in St. Louis on Tuesday night, the 28th inst., at nine o'clock, by a special train consisting of locomotive, baggage car, one first-class passenger coach and five Pullman cars. Ample arrangements had been made for about 150 newspaper men who were the invited guests of the St. Louis & Iron Mountain Railroad Company, and who represented all kinds of papers throughout the Northwest, from Pittsburgh to Topeka. The party took breakfast on Wednesday morning at Walnut Ridge, Arkansas, and from there proceeded to Little Rock. The train stopped on this side of the river, at Baring Cross, and the party went into the shops to see a wonderful cabinet made to be exhibited at the St. Louis Fair. It was made of timber grown in Arkansas, and contained the following varieties: Ash, beech, bois d'arc, cherry, cedar, cypress, gum, holly, hickory, oak, poplar, yellow pine, sassafras, and walnut. On the arrival in Little Rock the party were met by streaming banners and bands of music. It was now three o'clock, and by this time the average newspaper man sighed for some of the "true inwardness," and the invitation to dinner was as heartily accepted as it was given. The party dined with the citizens of Little Rock at their homes, and spent the evening driving about the city and seeing the sights, among which were the Chamber of Commerce Exposition, the agricultural show at the Fort Smith Railroad land office, the fine collection of minerals at the Iron Mountain depot, the reading-room, and other places. A magnificent banquet was given at night, an account of which we will not attempt to give.



This excursion was one of more than ordinary importance. It was not, as excursions usually are, merely a pleasure trip. It was made for the purpose of gaining information. In the first place, the press in all its various phases throughout the Northwest was represented, and considering that the writer was not in the party when the article was written, it will not do violence to our native modesty to make the following quotation from the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*: "The fine appearance and intelligent culture of the gentlemen composing the party was a matter of general comment. A finer set of men has seldom passed through the city." In the second place, the people of the Northwest have generally possessed little knowledge of the climate, the soil, the resources and the society of Arkansas, and the little knowledge they have possessed has been supplemented by a vast amount of prejudice against that State. There has also been a spirit of hostility existing between these sections, and the "late unpleasantness" and the political troubles which have succeeded it have tended to keep alive this feeling. Having accompanied this excursion and gained as much information as our limited time would allow, we propose to "write it up."

## PAPER II.

On the morning of the 29th of September, in company with Dr. Coates, we proceeded to the office of Col. A. W. Soper, Assistant General Superintendent of the Iron Mountain Railroad, for the purpose of securing a pass down the road to overtake the excursionists who had gone the night before. Here we met Wm. R. Newmyer, of the *Pittsburgh Advance*, J. M. Jackson, of the *Peru Republican*, and C. M. Brooke, of the *Plymouth Mail and Magnet*, all, like ourselves, "Arkansas Travelers," and all too late for the excursion train, and likewise all seeking after passes to take the first train down. We never rejoice at the misfortune of others, but in this case the old adage that "wretchedness likes company" was verified in a forcible manner, nor did a wretched and forlorn traveler ever have better company than the gentlemen whom we met at the Superintendent's office.

At half-past nine the long train, loaded with travelers from all parts of the world, cotton planters and grain dealers, drovers and Texas emigrants, moved out from the depot. Sitting on the east side of the car, we could obtain a good view of the scenery and the river along whose bank the road runs for a distance of 30 miles. The water was covered with steamers, shrieking their arrival or departure, or with coal and iron barges filled with material for the furnaces and shops that line the banks of the river. Great iron furnaces and foundries sent up dense clouds of black smoke, which, hovering over them for a time, were finally dissipated by the wind. The train then shot past the United States Barracks, which stand on a hill overlooking the river, and we could see the sentinel pacing to and fro with his ceaseless tread, while the battery with its heavy guns—broad-mouthed dogs of war—looked down with a terrible frown on the water below, bidding a stern defiance to any one who would offer an insult to Uncle Sam or his dominions.

Rattling on down the river, the broad waters to our left, and stony and precipitous rocks of the cliff to our right, we passed several streams which, if seen by themselves, would have been considered of some importance, but flowing into the "Father of Waters," they were almost unnoticed. Finally, the road bent away to the right, and carried us into the interior of Missouri, a State which has been said to be "a child of compromise, and whose epitaph was written in characters of blood." There are, it is said, but four States in the Union which outrank Missouri in regard to manufactories. With her rich mines, fertile soil, great extent of navigable rivers and abundant timber, Missouri must of necessity be one of the foremost States in the Union.

Our route from St. Louis to the southern border of the State was almost directly south. The foliage of some of the forests passed on that day's travel was exquisitely beautiful. This, of all seasons in the year, is the time to see our American forests. If the dark green and yellow, the russet and brown, the purple and scarlet robes clothing the lines of timber along the creeks and in the great woods, covering hundreds of acres, fail to please the beholder, he must indeed be "fit for all manner of treason, stratagem and spoils." Here, in the "deep-tangled wildwood," are shaded lawns, as graceful and luxuriant in their very wildness as if they had been the product of careful cultivation. Sycamores and oak and elm lift their giant arms toward the sky, rejoicing in their strength, while over all fall the graceful festoons of wild vines.

On our train went down the road, passing Iron Mountain and Pilot Knob, places that we will notice more particularly on our return. At Bismark, 75 miles from St. Louis, the Iron Mountain road is intersected by a road running in a southeastern direction to Belmont, a town in Missouri just opposite to Columbus, Kentucky, and crossing the road from Poplar Bluff, Missouri, to Cairo, at Charleston. Some time in the afternoon the boxes on some of the coaches began heating, and it was necessary for the train to make frequent stops to cool them. In the evening we passed Gad's Hill, a very shabby station; the only thing causing any one to remember it is the fact that an express robbery took place there something more than a year ago.

It was almost sunset when the train reached Piedmont, and a look out showed great flames issuing from two boxes. It was therefore necessary to stop, carry water and cool them, take out the burning packing and melted babbitt metal, put in new copper and repack them before we could proceed. This took some time, and while it was going on we went out to make some new acquaintances, and to learn something of the country around. We saw a fellow standing at the corner of the depot. His arms and legs were long. He was angular, thin and cadaverous. It would take two such fellows to make a respectable shadow. He looked lean and hungry—a perfect impersonation of Mark Twain's coyote, and he looked as if he could run about as fast. His dress was somewhat uncouth. He wore an old, greasy, slouched hat. His hair and whiskers were long, unkempt and grizzly. His shoes were down at the heel, out at the sides and in front, and without strings. His shirt had been so patched that it was a serious question whether any of the original shirt was left or not. The remains

of an old vest hung about him in shreds. His pants were "butternut," out at the knee and fringed with wear at the bottom. In bold relief from the brown back-ground of the rear gleamed out two large, round, bright blue patches, reminding the beholder of the two full moons of Jupiter passing the ascending node. He had a kind, intelligent face, and his native goodness entitled him to more of this world's goods than he had received in this country. His conversation was candid, and when he spoke there was that in his words which ever satisfies the newspaper man—information. We interviewed him. He said the surrounding country was not fit for farming; that the people who lived there tended little patches of ground here and there, wherever they could find a place sufficiently level; that there was no stock in the country but the scrub variety and not much of that; that the people were improvident and lazy; that there was no trade in lumber or anything else; that the only work he could get to do was getting out hub timber at a dollar per day, and the market for this commodity being supplied he could find now no employment at all.

Looking about at the signs over the doors in the town, among several which read "saloon" we saw "The *Democrat* Office." Pointing to it we inquired if there was a paper published in the town and were informed there *was* one, but the editor, after vainly waving a flag of truce to the sheriff from the seat of his trowsers for several weeks, gave up in despair, and that "starved" had been written on the slab that marks the last resting-place of the "*Democrat*."

We then went into a little tumble-down shanty, over whose door we read "Refreshments." The proprietor's stock in trade was a box of crackers and half of a cheese. We asked if he had any sandwiches. After staring into space for some time with such a look as Macbeth bestowed upon the airy dagger, he said he had ordered some, but they got delayed on the road and had not reached him. He evidently did not know what a sandwich was.

The boxes being put in order we started on, but could not travel far at any time without stopping. Cause—hot box. The sun sank behind the forest trees and hills and left the world to darkness, except where it was illuminated by the flames from the hot boxes. We traveled, except when we stopped on account of hot boxes. We had hopes of overtaking our party at Malvern the next morning, but it was turned to bitter disappointment by—hot boxes. All kept in good spirits, except when we had a hot box. And thus all night long that specter of a hot box followed that train. Our conductor was a man of splendid temper. He would have sworn if he had not been. As it was, he only said he must have some Jonah on board, who, fleeing from his duty, was followed by the avenging wrath of an overruling Providence. If the passengers on that train had been convinced that such was the case, and the culprit had been pointed out to them, no whale would have ever got a chance to swallow him, though it might have been lying with its mouth open for the purpose. No chance would have ever been given to him to come back to say "Salvation is of the Lord."

The hot box business finally became desperate, and it was decided that one of the coaches could go no further, and must be side-tracked. It was the one

containing the Texas emigrants, and when we smelt them we ceased to wonder at the hot box. The wonder now was that the whole train was not hot. The coaches were as full as they could be with comfort to the passengers before this one was left, and when those from the disabled coach came pouring in on to us it was terrible. It seemed that every woman had fifteen children, five of which seemed to be of the same size and age. They settled down in our coach in the corners, on the floor, in and on the wood-box, in the aisles and under the seats, thicker than the plagues of Egypt, and being shut up in the cars all day, it being too dusty to hoist a window, the aroma was not pleasant.

At Poplar Bluff we got a sandwich and a cup of coffee. It was now past midnight, and, as sleep or rest was impossible, the passengers came to the unanimous conclusion that a train so subject to hot boxes should vanish in the infernal regions.

#### PAPER III.

The night's travel had now become intensely monotonous, and seeking some antidote for the ennui, some respite from the memory of the pursuing phantom, the "hot box," we entered into a conversation with an old gentleman who occupied a seat near us. He was a millwright and a man of much intelligence. His masculine voice, large whiskers and coarse brogans were not suggestive of the idea of a goddess, yet he seemed to possess the knowledge of both sylph and naiad goddesses of the woods and of the fountains. He discoursed fluently of the lumber business and of saw-mills, of the timber of the country and of mill seats; and knowing nothing of the subject, we were soon bewildered with over-shot wheels, turbine wheels, 80-horse power, 20-horse power, tramways, trucks, etc. He gave us much information in regard to the Mississippi river and its peculiarities—a river in many respects the most remarkable in the world, and one to which geologists refer as illustrating, on a grand scale, the action of running water in shaping the surface of a continent. This grand river rises far to the north, in the regions of almost perpetual snow, and on the first part of its journey its waters are chilled by the bleak boreal winds, where the hunter, wrapped in furs, pursues his game; it passes through the temperate zone, past corn and wheat fields, bustling villages and great cities, bearing on its bosom giant steamers loaded with the fatness of the fertile bottom lands; and after swallowing a half dozen of the greatest rivers in the world, it discharges its waters in the Gulf of Mexico, beneath tropical skies and in the regions of the rice, of cotton and of sugar cane, more than 3,000 miles from "the lake in the woods" from which it rises. Below the mouth of the Missouri, the great "Father of Waters" is very different in its character from the delightful, clear and inoffensive stream which, taking its rise from the sylvan lakes of the North, flows down by St. Paul, Rock Island, Burlington, Dubuque and Quincy—so different that those who are acquainted with it say that the part below "Big Muddy" should have been called "Missouri," partaking, as it does, so much of the character of that stream, particularly until it is modified by the waters of the Ohio, the Arkansas, the White and Red rivers. A look at the map will show

you that the river is very crooked, its bends short, its banks zig-zag and angular, so that the current strikes itself against the banks at no two points with equal force. This causes the banks to be constantly cut away at one point and deposited in another, so that the current is continually shifting; and a riparian owner on one side of the river sees his corn or cotton-fields slowly disappearing in the water to be deposited elsewhere further down the channel to increase the alluvial acreage of some other farmer, or to be deposited in the Gulf of Mexico, where new lands will at some time in the future rise out of its waters.

The part of the river below the "rocky chain" which runs across it between St. Louis and Cairo is usually called the "Lower Mississippi." The "Mississippi Valley" is from 40 to 100 miles wide, being the alluvial bottom which lies between the bluffs, and through which the river runs, meandering from one side to the other. The bends in the river are so great that sometimes a steamboat will start from a given point, and after making a run of 25 miles come within a mile of the starting point. When the high waters come they often burst through the narrow tongue, and making a "cut-off" insulate a vast tract of land, and filling the two points of junction with the old channel with mud-banks, the river is entirely separated from it, and the old bend becomes a semi-circular lake—a splendid home for wild fowls and alligators. All of the Mississippi Valley is below the high-water line of the river, and when the floods come the puerile efforts of man to stay the inundation, to beat back the rising waters and save the crops, fences, buildings and other property from utter destruction, are without effect. Water is everywhere, and the whole country becomes a swamp, the highways, rivers, lakes and lagoons assume the proportions of inland seas, and in an hour the planter sees his hundreds of acres, which were carefully prepared for the cotton-planting, submerged beneath the rising flood, and the wan ghost of starvation stands at a thousand doors. These inundations do not, however, occur very frequently. There was one in 1867 and another in 1874.

A short distance below Poplar Bluff we come to the line between Missouri and Arkansas. At the line between these States there is a station, the name of which is made from the first syllable of the name of each State—Moark. Just to the east of us, when at this point, is the region of country which was so terribly scourged by the earthquakes of 1811-12, commonly known as the New Madrid earthquakes. This was one of the very rare occurrences of the continual quaking of the earth for a period of three months, and that far from a volcano. It is said that the earth rose in great undulations; and when it reached a fearful height, the soil burst, and vast volumes of water, sand and pit-coal were discharged into the air to a great height. Many lives were lost, the people being swallowed by these openings, until it was observed that these chasms were in a direction from S.W. to N.E., and large trees were felled at right angles to the openings, and the inhabitants stationing themselves on the trunks of these trees were saved from being buried alive. New Madrid, a town standing near the bank of the Mississippi, sunk so that the houses disappeared beneath the water, and at one time the ground below the town swelled up so that the river was arrested in its course. It was at this time that the lake known as the "Sunk

Country" was formed. This lake lies across the line between Missouri and Arkansas and extends along the White river and its tributaries for about 80 miles, and is about 30 miles wide. Before this earthquake it was an inviting scope of country, covered with the habitations of men, with forest trees, and diversified with hills and rivulets; when the quaking came it sunk, and the waters from the river flowed into the basin, and full-grown trees were submerged so that one could paddle over the water in a canoe or skiff and see the old trunks of the forest trees standing leafless at the bottom of the lake.

The millwright said that most of the country east of us and west of the Mississippi was low, level flats and swamps, a great deal of it covered with cypress forests; and further down we got a glimpse of growing cypress trees. They are a peculiar tree. At the bottom the roots "stool" out, forming a great pyramid, with a base 15 or 20 feet in diameter. The apex is about 15 feet high, from which the trunk of the tree shoots up in the air as straight as an arrow. This is valuable lumber, and the manner of getting it out is as peculiar as the tree itself. There are two reasons why they cannot get it out in the dry season; one is because the pyramidal base is so large that they cannot cut the tree down, and the other is that these great stumps grow so close together that there is no room to get a team among them. They therefore wait till the wet season, as cousin Sallie Dillard says, "when the swamps are up," and then they take their axes in their canoes and paddle up to a tree and cut it off above the "swell," and fall it in the water. Paddling along the trunk they trim it of its branches, cut it off at the top, and float it out on the water.

The morning finally came, and still we had hot boxes. Getting down in the White river region two novel sights presented themselves—one, pine forests, the other, cotton-fields—neither of which we had ever before seen. We crossed White river and stopped at a little station called Beebee, named for the founder of the *Banner of Liberty*, an evidence that Jeffersonian Democracy prevailed there.

One of the boxes on the baggage car had reached a white heat, and the car could go no further. It was accordingly side-tracked and the baggage transferred to a box car. We then got along at a comfortable rate, and were soon in the fertile bottom of the Arkansas, and a little later we saw the stars and stripes waving over the United States Barracks at Little Rock. The city loomed up grandly across the river, and standing on the platform of a car while crossing the bridge, Col. Slack, Land Commissioner of the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad, explained that the way Little Rock got its name was from the fact that the first boat that came up the Arkansas found rock at this point, the first from its mouth. On the south side of the river, where there is a cut made through the bank for the railroad, there is an outcrop of shale with a dip of about 45 degrees. The direction of the dip is northwest, at an angle of about 45 degrees with the channel of the river.

The railroad crosses the river and pulls up by the side of the depot without bending from its general direction across the State (southwest), the greater part of the city being east of the depot. On an eminence west of the road there are

some very fine residences, one or two of which belong to United States Senators; and on the opposite side of the road, south, on another eminence, stands the State prison, but whether there is anything suggestive about Senators residing so close to the penitentiary we leave to be determined by those who know. Just now we are hungry and will go into the dining-room for something to eat.

## PAPER IV.

Having dined most of the time since leaving St. Louis with Duke Humphrey, the dinner at Little Rock was seasoned with the best of an appetite. The grand reception of the Editorial Excursion at Little Rock had taken place the night before, and the party had gone to Malvern in the night, and were now on their way to Hot Springs. We therefore had nothing to do but to follow with a hope, if we should be saved from hot boxes, of overtaking them in time for the Hot Springs reception at night. The distance to Malvern from Little Rock is 43 miles, and the run was made without the happening of any incident of interest. For some distance out of Little Rock we passed through pine forests, then coming to a flatter scope of country, the oak predominated. Professor Ware, of *Mines, Metals and Arts*, St. Louis, says that the low country which we crossed for 160 miles before we arrived at Little Rock, and the valley toward which we are now traveling were, during the tertiary period, estuaries of the ocean, and that the elevation upon which Little Rock stands was an outlying mud-bar.

Malvern is a railroad station of the meanest dimensions, and one that would never be noticed only from the fact that it is at this point that the railroad intersects the El Paso Stage line, and passengers for the Hot Springs leave the railroad and take the stage. From Malvern to the Springs is a distance of 26 miles, and remarkable for hills and roughness. Messrs. Jackson, Newmyer, Brooke and the writer took seats in a stage to which was attached a pair of large mules, said to be the fastest team on the road; while Mr. Coates and Mr. Jones found seats in a similar stage, to which was hitched a pair of horses.

Leaving Malvern we plunged into a dense forest, flat and swampy. This extended but a short distance until we commenced the exciting pastime of going up one hill and down another, and this continued for the remainder of the journey. These hills are covered with a luxuriant growth of timber, the yellow pine predominating, while the oak is next in importance. The soil is of a red color, and Mr. Jackson observing this, facetiously remarked that with a little manuring it would probably make brick. To us, who have been accustomed to the black soil of Indiana and Illinois, it does not look as if it would produce respectable dog-fennel, but the truth is far otherwise. Where it was in cultivation the crops were fair. The most of that 26 miles travel was through forests, deep and wild, and the journey was enlivened by the sight of scarcely a bird; not a squirrel or other animal showed itself, except now and then a hog. We do not know whether these hogs were *feræ nature* or whether they belonged to some one. At any rate they are a remarkable breed of hogs. They are chiefly valuable for "souse," being mostly head, ears, feet and tail. Like a

locomotive, they seem to be reversible. The ears grow in the middle of the hog—all in front is head, all behind, tail. If the ears are turned in one direction, the motion of the animal is forward; if in the opposite direction, the motion is reversed.

The habitations that we passed on the road were few and far between, the houses were of the log-cabin variety, with doors made of clap-boards and hung on wooden hinges, and it was remarked that none of them had glass windows. After some remarks about this peculiarity, Jackson wanted to bet that we would not find a house with a glass window in it until we should arrive at the Springs. We took the bet, and after having traveled more than 20 miles and not finding a pane of glass, Jackson became jubilant over his prospect of winning; but finally we came to a splendid farm on a creek bottom, and the proprietor had been reckless enough in his expenditures to put two glass windows in the front part of his house. Jackson was beaten and the rest of the party yelled.

At a place called Lawrence—it consisted of a stable and a log cabin—14 miles from Malvern, we changed mules, and read on a board which was nailed to a tree that Shanghai Town was a mile and a half beyond. We did not see it. Some time in the afternoon we passed a country school-house, the only one we saw on the entire excursion. It was a log shanty, standing on a hill-side near a spring, with a pine forest in the rear and a cotton-field in front. In style of architecture it resembled the structures which were built for a similar purpose in this country 40 years ago, the only difference being that the severity of the winters here compelled the people to make their houses better than they need make them in the warm climate of Arkansas. The house was covered with "fo'-foot boards," fastened on by weight poles. The chimney had been one of the old-time mud chimneys, but it had toppled over and lay in an unseemly mass at the end of the cabin. The door was also made of "fo'-foot boards." It opened on the outside, and was hung on wooden hinges. There was neither daubing nor chinking in the cracks, and the house was without a window of any kind. The door stood open, and passing we could see the teacher busying himself with a half-dozen urchins. We stopped to drink at the spring, and wanted to go up and visit the school, because we thought it probable that some future President of the United States might be "shooting ideas" there, but the driver said we had no time, and we hurried away, thinking of the old school-house in the woods, and "the spring that bubbled 'neath the hill," at which a part of our younger days were spent.

As we went careening up and down the hills we congratulated ourselves that we had at last got away from hot boxes. Vain delusion! A number of little screeches came up from below, and some one remarked that the "buss was cussin' the driver." Presently a blue smoke issued from the hub, and then we knew that we had it—a hot box on the El Paso stage line! We had to stop and carry water to cool the axle, and go to a neighboring saw-mill for some grease before we could proceed. The sun went down, and the sombre hues of night spread over the landscape before our journey was ended. At last, almost exhausted, we received the welcome intelligence that we had reached the Springs



—springs whose healing waters once occupied a prominent place in the Utopian dreams of De Soto and Ponce de Leon, and now attract the afflicted from all parts of the world, as did the pool of Bethesda of old, to come and bathe in their thermal waters.

Covered with dust, tired and hungry, we arrived at the Arlington House at nine o'clock, having at last overtaken the excursionists. This is the best hotel in the place, and is said to be the best in the State. The supper was already over and the dining-room was being cleared of tables for the grand reception and ball that were to be held there that night, and the attention of the waiters being so taken up with these preparations that it was with some difficulty that we could get anything to eat.

We made the acquaintance of a topographical engineer, whose name is now forgotten, who gave much interesting information in regard to the springs. There is trouble in regard to the title of the land on which the springs and the town are situated, it being claimed by certain parties and also by the Government. Many long and hotly contested suits have grown out of this trouble, but they have all been decided against the claimants by the Federal courts. The full details of the matter we have forgotten, but the main facts are about these: After the New Madrid earthquake the sufferers were granted land warrants which they might lay upon any Government lands in the State. They were laid upon lands around the springs. The Government then set off a reservation of four miles square which was intended to be the land containing the springs and land adjacent. Some of the records were destroyed and the New Madrid sufferers claimed that they had already taken the springs. The courts having decided against these claimants, an appeal is now to be made to Congress, and the topographical engineer is making an accurate survey and map of the whole reservation to lay before Congress at its next session. These claimants are receiving from \$300 to \$400 a day for ground rents, they claiming the ground upon which the whole town stands, the proprietors of the buildings having leased of them.

The reception was a grand affair, all the *elite* of the town and surrounding country being there. The address of welcome was made by Col. Harrell, and was a cluster of gems of eloquence, all sparkling with wit and humor. The response was made by Col. Peirce, and was appropriate to the occasion. After a few other formalities the band played and the gay party "tripped the light fantastic" until the "we' sma' hours."

#### PAPER V.

Seven o'clock on the following morning was the hour fixed for our departure from the Hot Springs, and at early dawn we were up climbing hills and rocks in order to get as good a view of the place and as much information in regard to it as possible before leaving. The town of Hot Springs is situated in a valley between two spurs of the Ozark Mountains. This valley is 600 feet above tide-water, and the mountains that hem it in, which are covered with dense forests of pine, oak and cedar, are about 400 feet higher. From the head of the valley there runs down through it a beautiful mountain stream, which empties

into an affluent of the Ouachita river a short distance below the town. The valley is so narrow that there is room for but a single street in the town, the buildings being backed against the hill on each side. This valley runs north and south, and when the sun rose over the eastern hill-tops, painting the foliage of the trees in the gorgeous dyes from nature's own alembic, and showing the jagged peaks and rugged rock standing like sentinels around the beautiful town just awakening from a night's repose in the vale below, the scene was one to charm the beholder who appreciates the picturesque, the beautiful or the sublime in nature. The town contains about 4,000 inhabitants and bears many evidences of thrift and prosperity. A street railroad runs through the single street, a distance of more than two miles; the stores have a bustling air of business about them, and the town supports two daily papers. The water issues from the springs far up the hill-sides, there being 74 springs in all. Those on the east side discharge hot water, while from those on the west it is cold. The volume of water issuing from these springs is immense, it having been estimated that they discharge 334 gallons per minute. These springs are doubtless the result of volcanic forces which have been active in the pre-historic times, while the large travertine deposits, which have themselves slowly accumulated for thousands of years, speak of a time far antecedent to these volcanic actions.

In order to get anything like a correct idea of the cause of hot springs, it is necessary to know something of the La Place theory of the formation of the earth—a theory that is now held by almost all scientists. It is, in brief, that the solar system was evolved from nebulae—"star dust," heated so hot that it floated through space as a vapor. This, radiating its heat, formed itself, by the laws of nature, into globes, and as the heat would be radiated from the surface much more rapidly than from the center, a crust would be formed on the surface of these globes while the interior would remain a molten mass. This is now the condition of our globe, the crust being only 50 miles thick—a great deal thinner, in proportion to the size, than the thin film coating the inside of an egg-shell. By this theory the elevations and subsidences, the faults, the dip of strata, the changing of ocean beds, volcanoes, earthquakes and hot springs can be easily accounted for. As to hot springs: Suppose this interior molten sea should surge against the crust with great force at a given point. If the force was sufficient there would be a great upheaval, the formation of a mountain, perhaps. The strata composing the crust at that point would be fractured in many directions. Suppose that some distance beneath the surface there should be made a great cavity from which these fractures or fissures lead off in every direction. Those running upward, but not opening on the surface, would very naturally become veins through which water from above would find its way to the cavity; while those running down from the cavity, if they should reach far enough, would be escapes through which heated gases and steam from below would be forced up through the water in this underground reservoir. Its temperature would be raised to ebullition, and, if there should be a fissure leading up from this cavity to the surface, the water would be forced out through it and appear on the surface as a hot spring.

The Hot Springs of Arkansas have a world-wide reputation for their curative properties. The Ozark Mountains divide the State into two equal parts — this division extending to the climate as well as to the soil. On the north side grows the vegetation of the Northern States, while the southern side has the semi-tropical climate of Mississippi. The bath-houses furnish every facility for the accommodation of invalids, who flock there in great numbers. Each room receives its supply of water directly from the reservoir, so that no two persons bathe in the same water. When an invalid arrives the first thing to be done is to consult a physician, who prescribes the kind of treatment. The usual method is to give a course of 21 baths (why it should be just 21 we did not learn), when, if a cure is not effected, another course is taken. The following very curious statement is extracted from a pamphlet which we picked up:

“Of the many patients or invalids who resort to these waters, about 75 per cent. are afflicted with complaints of a mercurial syphilitic character; the other 25 per cent is made up of rheumatism, paralysis and general debility. Of the first class all can count on a perfect cure in from one to three courses of baths; of the latter about half are cured, taking a longer time. Some confirmed cases have been cured after being there different seasons.”

Breakfast being over, the old rusty, dusty and battered stages drove up in front of the hotel, and “all aboard” was sounded up stairs and down, in the office, the dining-room, the halls, and everywhere. After much hurrying and bustling the passengers were all packed in the stages, and the long caravan moved out of town under the command of a “train boss.” Some of the party amused themselves singing, spinning yarns, and discussing the currency question, while others occasionally left the stage to clamber over the hills along the road-side to gather persimmons or muscadines—a wild grape—which were found in great abundance, while others still (these had been up late the night before) moved on in stoical silence.

The stages, being heavily loaded, progressed but slowly, and a sort of *ennui* was settling down upon the whole party, when a little incident occurred which at least served to relieve the monotony. Going down a long hill a lock on one of the stages broke, and the vehicle pitched forward on the horses. They were unable to hold it back, and the only thing left for them to do, as they viewed the matter, was to get out of the way by running. Several heavy stages were in front of them, and stumps, trees and fences on either side. They tried to “telescope” the stage in front of them, but failing in this, they turned to one side and ran into the fence. Smash! A pile of rails, stage tipped up on one side, one or two passengers sprawling in the dust, a horse lying in the midst of all with a leg broke entirely off and a terrible gash in his side, was the result. A ball from a navy revolver crashed through the wounded horse’s brain, and he ceased to breathe.

There is a narrow-gauge railroad being built from Malvern to the Hot Springs, and instead of going all the way to Malvern by stage, we were to go to the railroad, eight or ten miles from Malvern, and go in on “flats.” This road was a great curiosity to many of the party, who had never seen a narrow-gauge

before, and it will, when complete, be a great convenience to the travelers to the Springs. The main party of the excursionists had gone out on this road the day before, and were met at its terminus by a large delegation of citizens from the Springs and vicinity. In front of this delegation was carried a pole upon which was fastened a large bundle of cotton-plants, the pods blooming in their snowy whiteness, and above it was a crown, showing that they still think "cotton is king."

The party was delayed some time in getting started from the Springs in the morning, and still further delayed by the runaway, and on arriving at Malvern two or three hours later than was anticipated, found that they must be still further delayed to wait for a train from the south.

#### PAPER VI.

Having to wait for the late train from the south, we were delayed between two and three hours. Our next point of destination was Arkadelphia, the county seat of Clark county, a distance of 22 miles from Malvern. The land from Malvern to this town is generally level and very fertile, the prevailing type of timber being oak on the low lands and yellow pine on the hills. Arkadelphia is a town of 2,000 or 3,000 inhabitants, and quite a business place, has excellent citizens residing in it, and is surrounded by a good country. When we arrived at the depot it was half-past four o'clock, and although we had been expected there several hours earlier, a large crowd met us at the train to escort us to a beautiful grove adjoining the town, where a sumptuous, old-fashioned barbecue had been prepared as a reception for the excursionists; and as we had had nothing to eat since our hurried breakfast at the Hot Springs, it is easy to imagine how the beef and venison would disappear, as did the village of New Madrid in the earthquake times.

After being satisfied of the excellence of the barbecued meats, the party returned to the train and made a run of four miles further south to look at some of the celebrated Ouachita cotton-fields. We had expected to go to Texarkana, Texas, where a reception had been prepared for the party that night, but the annoying delays of the morning had now made it impossible to reach Texarkana in time, and it was decided to look at the fields in the bottom until dark, and then return to Arkadelphia for a little speech-making.

The cotton does not grow so luxuriantly anywhere else on the route passed over by the excursionists as in this fertile valley, and the citizens of Clark county insist that they have the best cotton county in the world. The train stopped by the side of a large cotton-field, and the excursionists poured into it like a hive of bees into a buckwheat patch. We interviewed a man in regard to the raising of cotton, and obtained much interesting information in regard to it, but as we desire to refer to this matter again it is passed by now.

Some of the party remained in these fields, while the others went on board the train to go further down to look at some other plantations. It was soon too

dark to see much, and it was decided to return. While the train was doing some switching some of the party improvised a plantation "break-down" with a party of darkies that we found fiddling and singing around a fire in a field. At half-past seven we were back at Arkadelphia, and proceeded to the Reames House, where speeches of welcome were made and toasts proposed and responded to in an eloquent manner.

The people of Arkadelphia certainly deserve great credit for the cordial welcome they gave the party, and they will long occupy a warm place in the hearts of the excursionists.

After the ceremonies of the evening were over we went to the train, and tucked ourselves away in our little beds, and when day dawned the next morning we awakened at the depot at Little Rock.

There was a man in the party whose "best holt" was writing resolutions. They seemed to come from him as a sort of natural production, as honey-comb does from a bee, or webs from a spider. If the party was all thrown together for two minutes at any one time, he would step to the front with a manuscript in his hand, take off his hat, flourish his cane in the air as a token for silence, and announce his intention to read a resolution. Of course he was from Chicago. About sunrise on Saturday morning, and just as the party were all out on the depot platform at Little Rock, this man of interminable resolutions came forward with some more, which were adopted by the party. [Resolutions previously published.]

#### PAPER VII.

After the passage of these resolutions we went up into the dining-room of the Depot Hotel to get breakfast. The managers of that hotel had certainly never seen a lot of hungry editors before, and knew nothing of what it would take to feed them, or knowing, cared nothing. We took a seat at a table near the entrance, and after waiting patiently for something like half an hour to be waited on, we called to a molasses-colored individual who occasionally came near the table, shying around it in actions very much like a humming-bird approaching a dainty flower. He had a round face, a pug nose, curly hair, and his eyes were fixed on vacancy with a look that was eminently ethereal. He did not seem to belong to the world, and rarely deigned to notice anything that did. He would have made an excellent ghost, but he was certainly a very poor waiter. At length he deviated from his course to come a little nearer to us. We told him that we wanted something to eat. He moved slowly away as if treading upon air, the while balancing a platter upon his thumb and two fingers. After another long wait we saw him again as slowly moving toward us, balancing the platter as before, it now containing one small biscuit. This he gave to some one before reaching our table, and the spiritual waiter again slowly disappeared with his platter. Another long wait and he again made his appearance with his platter as before, it containing a small piece of liver which was likewise given to a man at another table. We called him again and told him more emphatically than before that we wanted coffee. With countenance unmoved, with eyes fixed on

vacancy, platter balancing on thumb and fingers, and that sublime, spiritual look, he moved as slowly away as moves a funeral procession. After a while he appeared again, platter as before, containing a single cup half full of coffee, and this was given to some one half way down the aisle. We were now getting desperate. We yelled at him. He slowly moved toward us. We told him in the most emphatic language that we could command that we wanted something to eat immediately. Without seeming to notice us, he moved away with his platter as before, and after a long time again came back, this time with a potato which he let some one have before he reached our table. We had now grown desperate and could have seen his thumbs pinched flat in the crack of a door without the least sorrow for him. It was now plain that if we got anything to eat we must go and get it. We went down into the kitchen and got a cup of coffee and gave another waiter an order for a piece of steak. We returned—and waited—and drank the coffee—and waited—and still no steak! We returned to the kitchen but could find no steak. A small piece of liver with a couple of crackers was all we could find, and, like the Irishman who worked his passage on a canal-boat by leading the horse on the tow-path, we came to the conclusion that if it were not for the name of having breakfast we would about as soon do without as to try to work one out of that hotel.

As soon as breakfast was over the party boarded the train to cross the river. Some were going east over the Little Rock & Memphis road, and some west over the Little Rock & Fort Smith road. We took Greeley's advice and went west. The day was perfectly delightful. Not a cloud was in the sky, but the warm air shrouded the landscape in a mellow, silvery haze. The day's travel extended up the Arkansas river, as far as the road is completed—about 125 miles—running most of the way near the river. The bottom through which we passed is remarkable for its fertility. Just above Little Rock a field was pointed out to us that had been in continuous cultivation for 45 years, bearing either corn or cotton every year. At the time we passed it there was standing on it a crop of corn that would yield 50 bushels to the acre.

Soon after leaving Little Rock a gentleman with a darker skin, but he was a whiter man, than the spiritual waiter at the hotel, came through the cars and announced free lunch in the front coach. This suited us. We did not stand on the order of going, but went at once; it then seemed to us that no hungry mortal ever lunched with a better relish. In the first place, the provisions provided for that occasion were excellent in themselves, and then our appetites were sharpened by long fasting and being tantalized by trying to get breakfast in the morning, in a way that would have been excruciating even to old Tantalus himself.

At Lewisburg the citizens had prepared a splendid reception for the party. Everybody had come to town to see the excursionists as people here would come on the visit of a circus. A salute was fired from anvils on the green, while W. B. Gipson, the wild Irishman, unfurled a gorgeous banner and explained that they had used the anvils because the artillery broke down on the way. Mr. Gipson seemed to be one of the moving spirits of the place, energetic

and fully up to the times, and alive to the wants of Arkansas. The banner which he had prepared was unique in design. Upon it was a shield with the stars and stripes—emblem of the United States—and also a harp wreathed in the shamrock of the Emerald Isle; these were joined together with a wreath of flowers, and over all were the Celtic words, *Caed Mille Failte*—ten thousand welcomes. The speech of welcome was made by Rev. W. C. Stout, an Episcopal minister of the town. The people here had determined to show the party some of the products of the soil, and as we walked around it seemed as if we were at a county fair. Samples of wheat, corn, apples, grapes, peaches, potatoes, cotton, and indeed almost all the products of agriculture and horticulture, were on exhibition, and a splendid exhibition it was. We have never seen a better collection of apples than that at Lewisburg. The cotton stalks were immense. Among the many things exhibited here nothing attracted more attention than the “big cucumber.” This immense vegetable in appearance resembled a large, long watermelon; it was 38 inches long, and weighed 64 pounds; they called it a tonqua cucumber.

In the party was a gentleman from Indiana, the editor of a Republican paper in the eastern part of the State. He was an admirer of Morton, and nothing delighted him so much as to see the old “War Governor wave his bloody shirt.” Partisanism could be seen nestling in his grizzly whiskers, and the very wrinkles in his face seemed to arrange themselves for problems of “addition and division.” He was sniffing the air to find a ku-klux story to detail to his readers. There were three or four colored gentlemen standing in a little squad at the end of the depot; he approached and engaged in a conversation with them, with something like the following result:

Indiana Editor—“How are you fellows getting along down here?”

Colored Gentleman—“Oh, frustrate.”

I. E.—“Do you have any trouble with the white people?”

C. G.—“No, sah.”

I. E.—“No trouble, then, between the colored people and the whites?”

C. G.—“No, sah, not been any for a long time.”

I. E.—“Do you men feel perfectly safe here; don’t the white men maltreat you sometimes, beat you, threaten to inflict injuries on you and your families, and sometimes kill a colored man?”

C. G.—“No, sah, we’s all right.”

I. E.—“Now, look here (speaking very confidentially), I am a Republican, the editor of a Republican newspaper, and we in the North often hear of trouble here, and of injuries done the colored people. Now if there is anything of the kind we want to know just what it is, and you can tell me of it in perfect confidence.”

C. G.—“No, sah, nofin like dat heah.”

I. E.—“Your lives and property are perfectly secure?”

C. G.—“Yes, sah.”

The Indiana editor heaved a heavy sigh and turned away with a look of deep disappointment.

But our stay at Lewisburg could not be long, and we hastened on past hill and dale, across streams, by forests and fields. Presently a beautiful view of a spur of the Ozark Mountains presented itself, and passing this we came to Russellville, the county seat of Pope county. This is a very beautiful town of about 1,000 inhabitants, situated two or three miles from the Arkansas river, and 75 miles from Little Rock. Away to the southwest, at a distance of 20 miles, the Magazine Mountains showed their gray peaks, while the Dardanelle Rock rose abruptly in the air. This was one of the nicest and most thriving towns that the party passed in the State. Near it are good coal mines, producing a non-resinous anthracite coal, and at a distance of 12 miles from the town there are iron mines, which had formerly been worked. There are also mineral springs in this vicinity, both sulphur and chalybeate. The town contains four churches and two school-buildings, keeping school from six to nine months a year.

Proceeding from Russellville we soon came in sight of the river, along whose banks the road runs for several miles, presenting some splendid scenery. The general character of the rock all along the whole day's travel was a ferruginous sandstone, the strata having a dip to the south of from 30 to 45 degrees. A very noticeable feature of all the country traveled over in Arkansas was that the rocks are all angular and rough, there being no such thing as smooth pebbles there, owing to the fact that the northern drift did not extend so far to the south.

Crossing Spadra Creek, Clarksville was reached, the largest town on this road. We left the train and went to look at the town and some of its mills. The most extensive of these was that of A. Miller & Co., this being a grist mill, carding machine and cotton mill all under the same roof. All these except the cotton mill were familiar to us, and we accordingly gave that our attention. But of the cotton mill further on. From Clarksville we proceeded to the western terminus of the road. Before reaching the terminus some of our party stopped to look at some coal mines, where they remained until the train returned. Here some of our party left us to go on to Fort Smith, a distance of 48 miles. At half-past three o'clock in the afternoon the train was reversed, 125 miles from Little Rock, and homeward bound. Nothing of interest occurred on the return trip except that we were treated to an elegant supper at Russellville. We arrived at Little Rock about 10 o'clock to find that the Memphis party had not yet arrived—being delayed by a hot box

#### PAPER VIII.

Our account of the excursion would be incomplete without some notice of the "King of the South," cotton, and having seen it growing all over Arkansas, obtained some information in regard to its cultivation from the planters and laborers in the Ouachita valley, and seen some of the machinery employed in its manufacture in operation at Clarksville, we will give it a short notice.

Cotton is a plant of extensive cultivation in many parts of the globe within the 35th parallels of latitude. It belongs to the same species of plants as the



hollyhock and bears considerable resemblance to it in general appearance. This plant bears a three-fifth celled pod, which contains the seed of the plant and the fiber from which cotton goods are manufactured. When these pods ripen and burst open the fiber issues elastically, generally perfectly white, so that the plant when seen at a distance has much resemblance to a snow-ball bush in full bloom. Botanists have made many curious speculations as to the number of species of this plant, but those who desire to follow these speculations are referred to the text-books on that subject. The planters do not trouble themselves about botanical classifications; it is sufficient for their purpose if they know the names by which the varieties are known in the markets, and will talk about long staple and short staple, basing their classification upon the length of the wool and consequently the price it will bring in the market. Of the long staple the "Sea Island" is a variety which is grown exclusively upon the islands and along the coast, the saline ingredients of the soil and atmosphere being indispensable to its growth. This variety is raised extensively along the coasts of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, but the further it grows from the coast the shorter the wool becomes, the seeds increasing in size until far inland they become covered with only short hair.

The cotton plant is a very delicate organism, and requires a peculiar soil and climate for its due development. Although the plant is not, strictly speaking, an annual, it is found more profitable to destroy the shrubs and sow new plants every year. The land is prepared during the winter months by first thoroughly plowing it, and as soon as frost has disappeared throwing it up in ridges. The seed is sown in these ridges in holes from 12 to 18 inches apart. The sowing commences in March and generally continues through April, and in late springs to May. The young shoots appear above ground in five or six days, when the fields are weeded and the plants thinned out until there are but two or three in a hole. Later on, these are topped a few inches in order to promote the growth of bolls. Blooming takes place about the beginning of June. Cotton is a dry-weather plant and only requires enough rain to keep the soil slightly moist. From the date of blooming to the close of the picking season, warm, dry weather is essential. Picking generally commences in August, and continues until the first frost—about the last of October or first of November. All the available hands of the plantation, young and old, are employed during the picking season. The cotton is gathered into baskets or bags suspended from the shoulders of pickers, and usually piled together in rail pens in the fields until the picking is done, when it is spread out to dry and then separated from the seeds. The laborer we talked with in the fields told us that "befo' the wah" the business of cotton-raising was done chiefly by planters who owned large tracts of land and many slaves, but that since the "late unpleasantness" the land was divided up and the cultivation of cotton was carried on in a similar manner to that of corn in this State. In answer to our question as to how much one hand could tend, he said that one man could cultivate ten acres in cotton and five in corn. We told him we were only asking about the cotton, and asked why he included corn. He replied that now almost every one raised enough corn to do

him for home consumption. The average crop of cotton is about a bale to the acre, and the price ranges from \$40 to \$60 per bale.

The oldest cotton-producing country that we have any account of is India, in which the plant has been grown and manufactured ever since the beginning of the historic period, and it may be for centuries before. Early mention is also made of it in the annals of Egypt, and it is believed to have a high antiquity in all parts of Africa. In the western world it was found by Columbus, but was not so extensively cultivated as in the East, though during the past half century the culture here has outstripped, both in quantity and quality, the product of the Old World. Down to the commencement of the present century the cotton consumers of Europe were dependent upon the East and West Indies for their raw material, but the inventive genius, superior farming, and greater energy of the planters of our Southern States has almost secured the monopoly of the world.

Separating the cotton from the seed was formerly done by the slow and tedious operation of picking it by hand, a tedious process, by which one hand could only clean a pound or so a day. In 1793 the saw-gin was invented by Eli Whitney, since which the process of cleaning has been both rapid and effectual. This machine, as we saw it in operation at Clarksville, was not in general appearance very unlike the old "ground-hog" threshers that we formerly had in this country. It has a hopper similar to the thresher, a pulley on the end of the shaft at the side like the thresher, but instead of the cylinder with big teeth on the inside, the shaft is filled with circular saws, set about an inch apart. These saws are about a foot in diameter, and the teeth are very fine. One side of the hopper is composed of metal, with slots made in it, in which these saws run so that a small segment of the saw shows in the hopper. The slots are so small that a cotton-seed cannot pass through them, and when the saws are put in rapid motion their teeth jerk the fibre through, and it is swept off of them by a cylinder which is covered with bristles like a shoe-brush, revolving in the opposite direction from the saws, but more rapidly.

Prior to the mechanical inventions of Hargreaves, Arkwright, Crompton and Cartwright, the arts of spinning and weaving were carried on by hand. By means of the ancient distaff and spindle, or more recently the spinning-wheel, only one thread at a time was produced, and the slow and tedious process was not very remunerative. By this method the yarn was also inferior, for whilst a tolerable thread could be spun from flax by this method, the product of the cotton was weak and uneven. This state of things had long occupied the attention of the thinking portion of the spinners, but without any practical result until the invention of the "jenny" by Hargreaves, in 1767. By that machine eight threads could be spun at once. Hargreaves was much abused by the people of his native town, who feared that the invention would deprive them of employment. They destroyed the machine and drove the inventor from his home. He succeeded in obtaining a patent on it in 1770. It was about this time that Arkwright patented his "throstle," a method of spinning by rollers, by means of which a stronger and much finer yarn was produced.

It was also about this time that cloth was first produced made entirely from cotton. A few years later Crompton produced the "mule jenny," a piece of mechanism combining both the former, but it had an advantage over both, producing better yarn than either. The "mule" came into general use in about 1780—the period assigned as the birth of the muslin trade. The power-loom was invented by Dr. Cartwright in 1785. The first "mule jenny" contained 30 spindles, which, instead of being stationary, as in the "jenny" and "throstle," were placed on a carriage and moved outward while twisting, to give fineness to the thread, and then inward to wind the yarn on the spindles. This motion, in the early machines, was produced by an attendant, but now they are made self-acting, so that one person may attend two or three "mules," the only thing now necessary for the attendant to do being to piece such threads as may break. "Mules" are now made with 1,000 to 2,000 spindles, and a single thread has been produced by them upwards of 1,000 miles in length, and yet weighing less than a pound. The details of weaving, dyeing and printing are all interesting branches of cotton manufacture, but we cannot speak of them now, having already taken much of our readers' time.

## PAPER IX.

Returning to Little Rock from our trip up the Arkansas on Saturday, tired and worn out, we sought the earliest opportunity of retiring to our bunk in the sleeper, and before ten o'clock were in the embrace of old Morpheus. The party that went east, as we afterwards learned, did not return until some time in the after-part of the night. When we awakened on Sunday morning our train was "skipping out" to the northeast and the land of Arkansas was disappearing behind us. Arrangements had been made for the party to take breakfast at Arcadia, Mo., on that morning. When this arrangement was made, it was expected that the party would leave Little Rock at nine o'clock on Saturday night, but owing to delays, when breakfast time came on Sunday morning we were 150 miles from Arcadia, and there was no place between at which we could get anything to eat.

Before taking our final leave of Arkansas, we desire to make a few general remarks. There has been for a long time—indeed, ever since the settlement of the country—a deep-rooted prejudice in the public mind against the State and its people. The old man portrayed in the song of the "Arkansas Traveler," sitting fiddling in front of a roofless cabin, is taken as the type of the people of the State, and the impression has gone out to the world that they were a set of lazy, riotous vagabonds, thriftless idlers. And there has been, in times gone by, some foundation for this charge. The thing which surprised the excursionists most was the wild, unsettled and undeveloped state of the country. Arkansas is only 16 years younger than Indiana, yet she is half a century behind her. We passed through miles and miles of country on the excursion where the land was as fertile as the average of this county, and yet there could not be seen a sign of habitation. Her forests seem to be almost untouched by the woodsman's ax, and wild turkey, deer and bears wander through them undisturbed. As the

average citizen of Arkansas puts it, "befo' the wah" no one settled "heah" but planters from the Southern States who brought with them a large number of slaves and took up large tracts of land in the river bottoms. They were not a class of men to improve a new country. Their object was to get as much work out of the slaves and thereby as much cotton out of their fields and as much money out of their cotton as possible. The mildness of the climate did not compel them to build good houses, consequently a rude log cabin, daubed with mud, covered with clapboards, with a mud chimney and a door hung on wooden hinges, and without windows, was about the style of the dwelling-houses of even the wealthy planters. They neither raised nor manufactured the ordinary articles of home consumption, but when the cotton-crop was harvested they put it on a boat and took it down the river, generally to New Orleans, where they sold it, and loading their boats with corn and bacon, together with such other commodities as they needed, they returned to their homes. But the war came and devastated the State as if the withering blasts of a simoon had swept over it. The war was followed by the accursed "reconstruction," more devastating in its effects on the growth and development of the country than even the war itself. During these long years of turmoil—almost of anarchy—the merchants of the State had no credit with wholesale dealers East, and the result is that they have been prevented from running in debt and ruin, as many of the merchants of the other Southern States have done. The smoke of the war has now been swept away and peace and order have been restored; the people of the State are generally out of debt; the crops are this year all that could be desired, and the people seem to be on a royal road to prosperity. They have become reconciled to the new order of things; they have in good faith accepted the situation, and now fully recognize their needs. They now know full well that the best thing that they can get in their country is a "live man" from the North, not a carpet-bagger seeking the spoils of office, but a genuine farmer or mechanic who will go to work earnestly and honestly; and there is no country in the world that will extend a more cordial welcome to such persons than Arkansas; and, it may be added, there are few countries offering so many inducements.

It would be great ingratitude to close these papers without an expression of our sincere thanks to the people of Arkansas for their generous and open-handed hospitality, extended to us everywhere we went. The whole route through the State was but a continued ovation, and whenever these people make up their minds to entertain guests they do not do it in any grudging, half-way style. Frank, generous and open-hearted, they are ready to share their last piece of bread with a stranger if they think him worthy of their confidence. They are a people of positive convictions, and they possess something of that stern virtue of the old Roman character. As illustrating this peculiarity we will give an instance. Just before our visit to the Hot Springs there had been an elopement and marriage of a young lady of that place. She belonged to one of the first families. She had contracted an alliance with a gentleman who did not please her parents. The father forbade him coming to his house, and the daughter from having anything to do with him. But, as is usual in such cases,

the daughter run away and married him. In her father's house was kept a family tree, with a branch for each member. When the father heard of her marriage her branch of the family tree was taken off, everything which she owned was sent to her, after which her tombstone, with an appropriate inscription, was placed in the family graveyard, as though she had in fact been dead and buried.

Arkansas was admitted into the Union in 1836. It comprises an area of 52,198 square miles, and occupies a most advantageous location in the temperate zone. The products of its soil, owing to the geographical position as well as to the physical conformation of the country, are similar to those of both Northern and Southern States. Within the limits of the State may be found all the variation of climate of 10 degrees of latitude. In the northern part of the State all the leading staples of the Northern States are produced, while to the south the great southern staple grows luxuriantly. We clip the following from another writer and adopt it as our own:-

"In passing westward from the eastern border of Arkansas, the surface becomes more elevated, rising gradually; near the centre of the State the country becomes rolling and hilly, while the vast forests are interspersed with undulating prairies. The country north of the Arkansas river is a beautiful intermixture of hill, plain, prairie and woodland. It is generally very fertile, and is rapidly filling up with an enterprising people. It affords a fine stock range, the various cereals and fruits are successfully raised, and it is equally well adapted to growing cotton. The country between the Arkansas and Ouachita rivers is partly alluvial and partly diluvial in its formation, and of great fertility, being composed of broad and fertile bottoms, and ridges and hills of no great elevation. The district south of the Ouachita, for a considerable distance, is divided into a series of ridges and valleys, intersected by numerous small streams rising in the mountains to the west. These streams afford superior water-power for manufacturing purposes, and the lands are of great value for stock-raising and agricultural uses. South of the hill-land is a large tract of country extending to the southern boundary of the State, and nearly across from east to west, varied in surface and soil, but generally undulating and interspersed with pine forests. Large portions of these lands are exceedingly fertile, particularly the black sandy soil. The alluvial lands on all the streams—which embrace a large area of the State—are of the highest fertility. The disposition of the arable land in Arkansas is eminently favorable to its development. The great variety of soil, the succession of hills and valleys, the prevalence of springs, creeks and rivers in every section, are circumstances which tend to produce a diffusion of advantages, rendering every district in the State desirable for settlement. Arkansas abounds in valuable timber in all sections, and the revenues from it are of the first importance, constituting the base of great wealth yet to be realized in the improvement of the State. The yellow pine forests predominate, covering about one-tenth of the area of the State. Several varieties of oak abound and attain large proportions. Cabinet woods occur in abundance, of which the black walnut, cherry and maple are the most

valuable. Arkansas is beyond a doubt the best watered State in the Union, having nearly 3,000 miles of inland navigable waters, so distributed that they intersect nearly every portion of the State, and afford steamboat facilities the greater part of the year. The climate of Arkansas is mild and salubrious. Sudden changes of temperature are less frequent than in the Eastern States in the same latitude, and not to be compared to the country further west, where sudden northers sweep down to the Gulf. The thermometer does not show here as high a temperature during the summer months as in the more Northern States, and in winter it rarely gets below 10°. Of course, so long a season of warm, genial weather must greatly facilitate the labors of the husbandman. Plowing may be done every month in the year. No country furnishes a greater number of days in the year in which out-door work can be performed. Garden crops are planted early; potatoes and peas often in February, and others in March. The rains are generally seasonable and propitious; the winter frosts being light, only tend to give a mellowness to the soil it would probably not otherwise possess, and are not of sufficient duration to interfere with early and late planting. The climate is conducive to good health and longevity. All the fruits are sure of luxuriant growth, including as well the different kinds grown in the Northern States, as those which nearly approach the tropics. Apples, peaches, pears, cherries, apricots, figs, grapes, strawberries, and other small fruits, grow luxuriantly in all parts of the State, and are noted for their size and flavor. In this climate fruit trees bear early, produce abundantly and ripen their fruit in the greatest perfection, and though it may seem incredible to our Northern friends, yet we are informed by all citizens that the fruit crop of Arkansas has not been a failure for thirty years. Arkansas, owing to its climate, unfailing water, and wide grass range, possesses superior advantages as a grazing region—a branch of industry which has already become an extensive interest. The native grasses of Arkansas include 35 varieties and grow luxuriantly. This State can, without exaggeration, boast of her mineral deposits, especially when we take into consideration the various kinds, their general rich quality and enormous quantity. Here are magnetic, hematite, calcareous, and other varieties of iron ore; lead, zinc and coal, manganese and associate metals, together with marble, gypsum, salt, kaolin, whet and hone-stone, slate, limestone, granite, marl, paint and nitre earth. The coal-fields of the State embrace an estimated area of 12,000 square miles.”

The Constitution of this State provides that the General Assembly shall require by law that every child of sufficient mental and physical ability shall attend the public school during the period between the ages of five and eighteen, unless educated by other means, and the Legislature has provided a very efficient school law, which secures to all the State ample school privileges. The law also provides that the white and colored children shall be educated in separate schools. Life and property are secure, and as well protected as in any State of the Union. Population is the great want of Arkansas; almost endless acres of productive soil remain yet to be brought under cultivation. Forests and mines, the varied products of the temperate or semi-tropical zone, corn and cotton,

choice fruits, and a rich and never-failing harvest of all the rarest gifts of nature, allure immigration and invite the hand of industry.

At about two o'clock in the afternoon, on Sunday, we reached Arcadia and stopped for the breakfast that we had been so long looking for. From this point we got a good view of Pilot Knob and the Iron Mountain. After the dinner was over Col. Loughborough called the excursionists together to make an announcement. He said that the people of Hope, expecting them to make that town a visit, had prepared a banquet and a banner for them, but, as the party did not go to the town, they had been compelled to take care of the refreshments themselves, and had sent the banner to him to present to the party. The banner consisted of a piece of ordinary muslin, on which was this inscription: "Our Nation's Educators are our Friends. We made it out of the Weed. Arkansas Manufacturing Co., Royston, Ark." This was said to be the first piece of cotton cloth manufactured in the State. The banner was then given to Col. Loughborough to be placed on exhibition at the St. Louis Fair. The party again entered the cars and were soon steaming on towards St. Louis, where we arrived just at dark. This Arkansas traveler at once proceeded to the Union depot, where he arrived just in time to take the Vandalia train for Terre Haute, and thence home ready for business early on Monday morning.

In the series of articles upon the excursion to Arkansas which we now close, we have aimed to give the reader some information in regard to that State in a way that would interest as well as instruct. If further information is desired on this subject it can be obtained by addressing either J. M. Loughborough, T. B. Mills & Co., or W. D. Slack, all at Little Rock, Arkansas. Should these gentlemen ever get up another excursion we hope to make one of the party.

## CHAPTER VIII.—IOWA.

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FROM THE "IOWA STATE JOURNAL," DES MOINES.

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W. A. WEBBER, CORRESPONDENT.

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LITTLE ROCK, ARK., September 29.



WE awoke this morning in an Arkansas swamp, or I should say that when we awoke our train of Pullman palace cars was running at the rate of 24 miles per hour through the swamps of Arkansas, about 200 miles south of St. Louis. We breakfasted at 8.30 at Walnut Ridge, with a good substantial meal, and then interviewed the productions of this part of Arkansas. They consisted, as far as we could learn with the time at hand, of one black bear, a good sample of corn and cotton, and a fine growth of white oak, walnut, ash, and other kinds of timber. At ten o'clock we were on our way southward again, stopping at Newport, 225 miles from St. Louis, and found a new village of about 600 inhabitants, who seemed to have a good deal of stir and push about them. Here also we found the first bales of new cotton, 15 or 20 in number. At Judsonia, 229 miles from St. Louis, is located the Judson University, under the supervision of its President, the Rev. Benjamin Thomas, A. M. We were saluted here by the citizens in fine style, and presented with a neat impromptu banner inscribed "Northern Editors, welcome to Arkansas. The pen is mightier than the sword."

At Kensett, a few miles further down the railway, we interviewed the wooden railway that extends four miles westward to the Searcy Sulphur Springs. Knowing that we were ultimately bound for Hot Springs, we did not urge our trainmen to switch off; on the contrary, we were desirous of completing the remaining distance to Little Rock, where we arrived at 2.45 to-day. At the Little Rock depot we were met by the Little Rock brass band, who discoursed several pieces of music in fine style, when the large delegation of citizens took charge of the party and entertained each one of the more than a hundred hungry newspaper men at their private homes, feasting with a good dinner; afterwards a pleasant drive through the city, into its every nook and corner. We are now at the banquet (nine o'clock P. M.) at Concordia hall, Little Rock, in honor of the first



visit of "Northern Editors" to this part of the South. It is a grand affair; first, because we have in our excursion party a fair representation of the Northwestern press, and with us a large number of the representative gentlemen and ladies of this city and its vicinity, numbering in all more than 250. I note here that the hall is set with four tables garlanded with the American flag, two of them 70 feet long in the form of an X, and two others at either end 20 feet long, all loaded with viands and victuals. That is a convincing proof that newspaper men, though they be Northerners, have a goodly and warm welcome in this once Southern city. It certainly is a hearty, truthful and honest outpouring of hospitality, that means something more than mere form. These people are in real earnest this time, and have worked themselves up to that point wherein they can appreciate our Northern industry, enterprise and schools. I, with the rest of all true Iowans, am truly thankful that this is the case.

I should have mentioned in a former letter that the object of this excursion is that gentlemen of the Northern press might go and see Arkansas and the Southwest for themselves, "the condition of its government and society, and the character of its soil and products." The enterprise is led by J. M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner of the railway, assisted by Col. T. Essex, Assistant Commissioner, and G. W. Hered, Esq., General Traveling Agent, together with T. B. Mills & Co., land agents and proprietors of the *Spirit of Arkansas*. These gentlemen accompanied the party, and are happy over the success they had at the reception at Little Rock.

I desire to return my thanks to Gen. Robt. C. Newton and lady, and Col. Robt. Howard, of that city, for their hospitality and many kind attentions shown me. "May they live long and prosper," for they are generous, whole-souled people.

What I think of Arkansas may be summed up in a few words. Her soil is excellent, water abundant, minerals inexhaustible, fuel—both of wood and coal—in great and sufficient quantities for generations to come, and a people so changed, so far advanced in the right direction, that it makes it desirable for any Northern man who desires or thinks of emigrating to consider well and fully examine the advantages offered here, either by the State, the Iron Mountain Railroad, or by T. B. Mills & Co.

I saw enough of this to-day to cause me to believe this to be true, especially in the agricultural department. There were specimens of corn, rye, oats, millet, grasses and cotton, such as can be surpassed by no other State in the Union, if we except the sea island cotton of the Eastern coast; melons, pumpkins and squashes in abundance, and a Tonqua cucumber that weighed 57 pounds to quit the field with.

In our drive over the city to-day we visited the Fair Grounds, United States arsenal, the cemeteries, and the spot and house where "Sandy" Faulkner lived, the veritable and only truly Arkansas traveler that could travel and at the same time play the fiddle.

12 o'clock M.—We are off for the Hot Springs, Arkansas, where I will tell you something more of the Southwest.

HOT SPRINGS, September 30, 1875.

Our excursion party through Arkansas arrived at Hot Springs at two o'clock to-day, after a fifteen-mile stage ride over a hilly, rough and dusty road from the western terminus of the Hot Springs narrow-gauge railway. I shall remember vividly, as often as I remember my aching bones of to-night, my own personal experience of to-day's trip in an Arkansas lumber wagon. "Mollie Darling," an old mule 16 or 17 hands high, that looked more like a hat-rack than an animal of locomotion; and "Pete," a mustang pony, about two-thirds the mule's size, together with our able driver, who "tought we could drive dat ar team to de Hot Springs as quick as any ob dem," and so he did; five of us, of the Northwestern press-gang, from as many different States, arrived here on time with those who were lucky enough not to have to give way with their better team and vehicle—as we did upon the starting from the train—to a party of ladies who accompanied us from Malvern.

My impression of the country over which we have traveled to-day may be summed up as follows: We have not travelled over a foot of land that an Iowa farmer would for a moment think of cultivating, but we passed by several resident natives' abodes, who had and are still trying to hew a livelihood out of the soil in this wilderness of timber-land. There is one bright side to this part of Arkansas, however, and that is that the land most of this distance is really valuable for its timber, the forests in many places being heavy and composed of pine, oak, etc., that the approach of these railways will find a market for. Of the Hot Springs, wherein the real value of this part of Arkansas exists, the stranger cannot do otherwise than express his curiosity and surprise at their wonderful existence, and their still more reputed wonderful curative powers. More than 50 of the springs burst out of the mountain top and its southeast side, with greater or less volume, varying in temperature from 93 to 150 degrees Fahrenheit, at an elevation of from 1,300 to 1,400 feet above the level of the sea, and yielding an estimated volume of water of about 482,000 gallons per day. They are among those things of earth, however, that must be seen to fully appreciate them, and one must bathe in and drink of their "red-hot" waters to fully understand them. When the litigation of the title to lands hereabouts shall have ended, and this people shall have municipal laws and regulations, I doubt not it will become one of the most famous watering-places, as well as hospitals, of America, if not of the world.

Our reception here to-day was another grand ovation, Hon. J. M. Loughborough and Col. T. B. Mills still being the guiding stars. Our hosts are the whole people of Hot Springs, under the direction of Col. E. W. Reector, Col. J. M. Huffman, H. P. Thomas, and other prominent citizens. Strolls through the mountain sides, about the springs, and pleasant converse with the people, has been the order of the afternoon. I notice that the further south we get the closer we are quizzed and questioned as to the state of political affairs North, as well as our prosperity or adversity socially, and a general anxiety to find out what we are going to say of Arkansas when we get home. Personally I am

satisfied in my own mind that *the people* — I do not mean her adventurers or speculative politicians, or hot-heads — of Arkansas have really, truly and honestly accepted the situation, and are now desirous only of their own, the State's and the American Union's greatest welfare. I know this is a strong doctrine, and did I not see evidences of it from other sources than from those in power, I might, on reflection and consultation with my extreme radicalism in politics, be induced to believe differently. I am surprised but thankful that I believe I can make these utterances without fear of their being contradicted in the future. I think, too, that this is the sentiment of our whole party, and come to the conclusion that this is the case more from the heartiness with which the following resolutions were passed to-night than from the resolutions themselves:

*Resolved*, That the representatives of the Press of the great Northwest, here present, unite with the citizens of Arkansas in tendering our heartfelt thanks to the Hon. Thomas Allen, President, to the Hon. James M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner, to Col. A. W. Soper, Superintendent, and other officers of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railway, as well as Messrs. T. B. Mills & Co., land agents, of Little Rock, for the liberal and intelligent spirit of enterprise that inaugurated and conducted the excursion, by which so many representative men of the Northwestern Press have been enabled to meet the citizens of Arkansas upon their own soil.

*Resolved*, That the meeting thus brought about has proven to all concerned that there are no more bloody chasms to fill, no more "hatchets to bury," but that we are all citizens of a common country upon the one hand, proud of the progress of our sister States; and upon the other, anxious that Arkansas may speedily achieve the wealth and position due her natural advantages.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the representatives of the Press be hereby extended to the citizens of Hot Springs and Little Rock for their cordial greetings and generous hospitality; and for their many acts of kindness we shall ever hold them in grateful remembrance.

I have written this hurriedly, while most of the party are attending a ball given at the Arlington House to-night. You will hear from me at Texarkana to-morrow.

ARKADELPHIA, October 1, 1875.

The Northwestern press-gang arrived here at four o'clock this P. M., four hours behind time, on account of a runaway of one of our coaches *en route* from Hot Springs to the terminus of the narrow-gauge railway, therefore we abandoned our trip to Texarkana, 60 miles south. Our reception here was a continuation of the ovation that we have been presented with ever since we left St. Louis. We partook of an old-fashioned barbecue in a beautiful grove in the immediate suburbs of the city, and then ran our train south of the city seven or eight miles, among the cotton plantations and corn-fields of a Mr. Strong. Your readers will remember that our previous travels through Arkansas were among the timber and mineral lands of the State. This, then, being our first visit to

an agricultural district, was a happy relief from scenes that were fast becoming monotonous.

Mr. Strong's cotton plantation contains 300 acres. What is known as the September crop—that portion of the stock that blooms in September—is now being picked, mostly by colored labor. It was a novel and interesting sight to most of our party to witness this process, and it must have been a tiresome task to this planter and his "help" to answer the many questions that were plied to them during the brief hour we spent in this cotton-field—the questions covering all the ground from the time the cotton was planted until it was in the bale for Liverpool. I would state right here that here are as fine and rich lands as the world affords, as is proved by the crops now growing upon them—the cotton yielding one to one and a half bales per acre; corn, 40 to 60 bushels per acre; potatoes, both sweet and Irish, in abundance, with fruits of all kinds that can be grown in a semi-tropical climate, the pear and grape being especially prolific.

This is the first year that wheat-growing has been a success in Arkansas, and the first time in its history that it has raised enough for the wants of its people; and now that they have accomplished it, her farmers are proud of the fact, and only await until the wheels of time shall bring another season, when they will sow larger than they did this year. Of this product I hear of 20 to 30 bushels per acre having been gathered this year.

As the vail of darkness spread itself over the earth, we retraced our steps to Arkadelphia, where we listened to three or four hours of reception speeches and their responses. These Arkansawans are orators that have the "hang on" disease terribly. They seem to be in the light of their glory when they orate. They never tire, their illustrations are long, oh dear, how long! some of them not pretty, but all of them at this point, as elsewhere, I suppose, are well meant. There are exceptions to all general rules, so there was in this case. Ex-Judge H. B. Stuart, for 25 years a resident of Arkadelphia, made a twenty-four minute extempore oration that was indeed full of good sense and delivered with the ability of an orator. It was a speech explanatory of the condition of the South—I believe truthfully painted—her wants, her submission to the old flag, and a desire that these things be better known in the North. It was a little speech that ought to be delivered all over the South as well as all over the North. We were glad to hear it, so would others. It would do much good.

Arkadelphia is situated on the Ouachita river, about 70 miles southwest of Little Rock, and is a town of 1200 or 1500 people. It is one of the oldest towns of the State, and since the advent of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railway, has taken on new life by way of regrading her streets, repairing old and erecting new buildings. They yet need to see the necessity of good schools—though their present ones are better than the old—as well as a first-class hotel or two.

At 12 o'clock we retrace our travel to Little Rock, and go east to-morrow over the Little Rock & Memphis Railway through some of the prairies of the State as far as Forrest City.

FORREST CITY ARK., October 2, 1875.

Here we are, at the end of another day's travel through Arkansas, part of us coming over the Little Rock & Memphis Railway to this point, stopping here and there on our way, while the remainder of the party went west on the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railway. Over this route to-day we have seen what we Iowans would call *real* farming lands, viz.: prairie—prairie by the mile or acre—fringed with forests of oak, cypress and pine. On this sunshiny day, when all nature seemed to add to our pleasure, we certainly enjoyed the trip, though we are tired, and pronounce it the best day's ride and through the best agricultural portion of Arkansas that we have seen.

We left Little Rock at eight o'clock A. M. and made our first stop of a few minutes at Lonoke, 23 miles out.

## LONOKE

is a town of about 900 people, in the midst of a pretty prairie. At

## CARLISLE,

35 miles out, our party met with a warm and kindly reception—the people here hailing us with open hands and hearts, and expressing themselves with hopes that our coming to Arkansas was the beginning of a new era in its history. So eager were this people that we should see for ourselves the products of this part of the State that they had gathered of its productions, and so arranged them that, for all practical purposes, one might consider himself at a good-sized State Fair. In one building John D. Morrow & Sons, of Prairie county, had on exhibition as fine samples of many varieties of apples, pears, peaches and other fruits as grow anywhere—one pear weighing two and a half pounds. In this building also were exhibited sweet and Irish potatoes of monstrous size, together with all kinds of other vegetables, pampas grass ten feet high, beloit grass, wild prairie grass, and blue joint grass, with which this county abounds; samples of corn, wheat and oats, that are only excelled by our own Iowa prairies. Capt. George A. Davis, a farmer living a few miles south of this town, heard of our coming, and gathered up a wagon-load of sample farm products from his plantation, and was on the ground when we arrived, of which the following is a partial synopsis: A large and well-arranged bouquet of beautiful flowers, tied, as a welcome, to the front end-gate of the wagon, and then came samples of oats, wheat, corn, potatoes, cabbages, cotton, hay, a loaf of bread, a crock of butter, etc. It was pronounced by our whole gang as the best single effort we had seen. Here also we interviewed some *gin*—I have reference to a new cotton-gin that has just been erected here, with machinery of a new pattern, and is doing a land-office business, making the “fur fly right smart.” Here also is

made and baled large quantities of hay from the wild prairie grasses, Mr. McClintic, formerly from Michigan, informing me that they gather from two to three tons per acre.

This, perhaps, is as good a point as any, considering that the population is mixed—there being some people from almost every State in the Union here—to judge of public sentiment. Instead of giving you my own, I substitute that of “Old Rebel,” as I found it in T. B. Mills & Co.’s *Spirit of Arkansas*, and say that unless the “white man is very unsartin,” I believe it is the true sentiment of the people here, though expressed in homely language:

WASHINGTON, August 22, 1875.

*Editor Spirit of Arkansas:*—Quite a number of your “*Spirits*” for August came to this county, and every one who has read it and understands, as I have been informed, that you send 20,000 copies out of the State, gives you great credit for your enterprising and well-directed efforts to bring immigrants to Arkansas. I am an old rebel—an original secessionist—and not many years, or even months ago, I might say, I would not have indorsed your attempt to bring “Yankees” to Arkansas, nor would a great many other residents of this section; but “a change has come o’er the spirit of our dreams,” and I honestly believe, yes, I know that a Northern man, regardless of his political opinions, who comes here to live, will be, as cordially welcomed and as well treated as if he came from “Old Virginia” itself. We are thoroughly reconstructed on that question. It is true that the fools are not all dead yet, and an occasional fossil of the carboniferous era still exists, who don’t want any “damned Yankees or foreigners,” but such specimens, save now and then, will soon disappear; as it is, they have no influence in the community. The people here want more people, and we readily recognize and appreciate the good work you are doing. Hempstead county is the richest, in lands, in Arkansas, or, for that matter, in the Southwest, and we would like to have you give it an extended notice in your paper. Send some one down here competent to write it up, and we will show him around, for we want, and want badly, more people. Our crops are generally good.

Yours,

OLD REBEL.

From Carlisle we came forward through, stopping a few moments at Prairie Center, and also at Devall’s Bluff, on White river. This last town, made historic by the late war, presents much the same appearance that it did ten years ago, with the exception of the addition of a few new buildings during the last year or two.

Here at Forrest City we were met by a delegation of citizens, escorted to a public hall, and endured another hour of reception speeches when we were hungry enough to have gone to dinner without them—the speeches. After a good, hearty dinner, we drove among the cotton-fields—and here are some

excellent ones, the cotton-plants standing five and six feet high—and through corn-fields and potato-patches, until nearly dark, when our engine whistled “all aboard.” A few more speeches — parting speeches this time, and one very sensible one from Ex-Governor Hadley — and we are off for Little Rock again and homeward bound.

So ends the excursion of Northwestern newspaper-men into Arkansas, one of the best planned and best conducted enterprises that it has ever been my lot to witness. All honor to the Hon. J. M. Loughborough and T. B. Mills, of Little Rock. Gentlemen, for the favors you have shown us and the privilege you have given us to see Arkansas and the Arkansawyers, you have a warm place in our hearts.

## CHAPTER IX.—KANSAS.

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FROM THE "TOPEKA COMMONWEALTH."

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N. L. PRENTISS, EDITOR.

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### NUMBER I.



THE party which left St. Louis on Tuesday night, September 28, 1875, for the exploration of Arkansas, consisted of between 80 and 100 persons. Most of them were *bona fide* representatives of newspapers, German, American and Bohemian, from the States of Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Ohio, Michigan, Kansas and Missouri, with one man from Pennsylvania. A majority had never visited Arkansas, others had taken a military tour through the country during the war and wanted to know "Who's been here since I's been gone," and some of the party had never visited any portion of the South, or seen cotton growing. The party, as was said, was principally composed of newspaper men, though there were several outsiders. Among these were Col. Markle, of St. Joseph, Missouri, a large landholder in different parts of the West and South, and Judge Shirk, of Peru, Indiana, who has operated considerably in Kansas lands, and is now figuring in Arkansas real estate. There were the usual number of queer birds; one, a tall foreigner with long waving hair and beard, who was traveling with a machine for either illustrating or regulating the movements of the heavenly bodies, your correspondent does not remember which, and who, on the first evening out, explained the movements of his instrument, and vouchsafed the information that he had once sat as a model for a picture of the Saviour, and after that relapsed into silence for the rest of the trip. Then there was an English gentleman, born in Dublin, Ireland, a true-born Irish Briton, who wore a badge consisting of a harp and crown, which he explained was "won by me ansaystors in beetle at Clontarf, and has been presarved at the familee residence at Ballywhackem for more than a thousand years." These were extras. Inside the "profesh" were the usual varieties of the species editor, including the insufferable representative



of the "metropolitan press," who gets drunk immediately to show that he is a "true Bohemian," and proceeds to inform his fellow-travellers that he is commercial and exchange editor on his paper, also that he is general manager and dramatic critic, and likewise night editor, foreign correspondent, and collater of sporting news.

#### OLD KANSAS

was represented on the trip by Col. Parks, now of Martinsville, Indiana, but formerly of Leavenworth, and one of the framers of that much-amended instrument, the "Wyandotte Constitution." Although the Colonel was heard to observe, several times during the trip, that he had seen his "fondest hopes decay," and moreover, that he had "lost a dear gazelle," he appeared to be in a remarkable state of preservation for all that. Another ex-Kansan was Mr. Collings, who once embarked on the "stormy sea of journalism" at Seneca, but who is now paddling in smoother waters in Indiana.

#### THE START

was effected from the Iron Mountain depot "on or about" nine o'clock at night. The party were comfortably quartered in Pullman sleepers, and not overcrowded, as is usually the case on such occasions. Col. J. M. Loughborough, the Land Commissioner of the railroad company, went down with the excursionists. Col. Loughborough was found to be a Kentuckian born and a Missourian "raised" and an Arkansan by residence. His appearance bore cheering testimony to the salubrity of the climate of the three States, and the pilgrims found him to be, in Arkansas phrase, "an elegant gentleman, sir." Another traveling companion was Hon. Logan H. Roots, a representative carpet-bagger, born in the depths of lower Egypt in Illinois, educated partly in Bloomington, Illinois, and graduating in an Illinois regiment, who settled in Arkansas at the close of the war, went into politics, met on the stump Tom Hindman, one of the ancient gods of Arkansas; was elected to Congress twice, and is now President of a bank in Little Rock. Mr. Roots turned out to be a valuable "guide, philosopher and friend," full of information, and, notwithstanding the rantank-erous nature of Arkansas politics, Roots seemed to have preserved an invincible good-nature.

#### IN ARKANSAS.

The first station reached in Arkansas is Moark. This heathenish-sounding name is all right as soon as you discover that it is compounded of Mo. and Ark., the abbreviations, respectively, of Missouri and Arkansas. The ingenuity in the name-building is displayed at Arkadelphia and at Texarkana, the latter being made up of Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana, while Ozark is said to be properly *aux Arcs*, the French abbreviation of *aux Arkansas*.

#### IN THE WOODS.

The road runs from Moark to Little Rock as straight as a crow flies, all the way through the woods; to the east of the line is a country of rivers and bayous;

to the west a few miles, a region of hills rising finally into the mountains, but neither hill nor stream is seen from the road; it is woods to the left, woods to the right; the woods seem to close in behind the flying train and in the dim distance to bar its onward course. The forest is not of a striking nature, presenting neither the fine majestic blades of the blue grass country in Kentucky and middle Tennessee, nor the tangled luxuriance of the river bottoms, but a stubbed, rusty, dusty, homely collection of pines and oaks, interspersed with more pines and more oaks. The soil underneath the trees looked white and hard, and along the road-side, where excavations had been made in building the road, the water stood in dull, gray, shallow pools.

#### SETTLEMENTS

occurred at frequent intervals. The stations along the road are all new. The houses, many of them one-story, built of native lumber, and not weather-boarded, look as if they had been put up the day before. There were many small stores, and the inevitable saloon and drug shops. Some of these places are stations for old towns further back in the country, Searcy for instance, which is four miles from the road and connected with it by a wooden-railed horse-railroad. The old towns of Arkansas were generally built along the rivers which the Iron Mountain road crosses, leaving them above or below. Scarcely a town on the road had an existence prior to the building of the road itself.

#### AT WALNUT RIDGE

the excursionists ate their first meal in Arkansas, and it was a good one and neatly served. After breakfast the party had a reception from a native-born Arkansan, a black bear, who was chained to a tree in the yard. "Cross as a bear" did not apply to this animal, who, although he had never before been interviewed by a newspaper man, submitted to the operation with great good-nature. Bears are not unfrequently found within sound of the railroad whistle in Arkansas.

#### A BAPTIST MISSION.

Fifty-three miles from Little Rock was reached Judsonia station, and with it the first American flag seen in the State. Judsonia is a Baptist colony, or what remains of one. The colony originally settled in Prairie county, but some of the colonists became possessed with the idea that prairie land was not as good as timber, a superstition that prevailed at one time even in Illinois, and for this and other reasons removed to the present location in the timber. Rev. Benjamin Thomas, formerly of Illinois, a stirring, enthusiastic kind of man, boarded the train at this point. He said that the colony was now a fixed fact, 500 students having been promised for the approaching term of the school, to begin October 11. It is to be hoped that the enterprise is "out of the woods," figuratively, if not literally.

## ARKANSAS EDITORS.

At Searcy station two Arkansas editors came on board, Col. Frolich, formerly of Canada, and Mr. Henry Fielding, a native of the old town of Athens, Alabama, and an ex-Confederate soldier. These gentlemen remained with the party several days, and furnished all the information possible.

## WE ARRIVE AT LITTLE ROCK.

The capital of Arkansas could not have appeared to better advantage than when first seen by the excursion party. It was a brilliant day, and the town, which stands on a high bluff, had the full benefit of the light, the white houses fairly glittering amid the dark-green masses of the trees. Looking up the river the view is shortened by a bend in the stream, and, as if guarding the passage, a high, bold cliff rises from the water's edge; this is the "big rock." Below the railroad bridge, and at the head of the levee, is a low dark shelving mass of slate sloping down into the stream; this is the "little rock" which gives the name to the town. An old writer says this rock was the first seen by trappers after leaving the mouth of the river, and hence arrested their attention. Little Rock is a natural town site. The Quapaw Indians had a village here, and the La Faves, a French family, located in the vicinity nearly or quite a hundred years ago.

## THE WELCOME.

The train passed through a rock cutting and swept up to the depot. A band was blasting away on the platform, but the visitors paid no attention to music on account of the particularly vigorous and able-bodied reception. To a Northerner it was an event. Such a pulling and hauling and hand-snatching, and dragging of people into carriages and galloping off with them, as if everything depended on speed, never was seen north of Arkansas. It was evident that we had arrived within the domain of the "fine old Arkansas gentleman," who, we have been informed, is wont to "go down to New Orleans and walk about the streets, and treat every man from Alabama, Tennessee, the Choctaw Nation, and every other vagabond he meets." Arrangements had been made to quarter the invaders at private residences, and it was the good fortune of the writer to be assigned for dinner-table duty with Mr. J. N. Smithee, formerly of the *Little Rock Gazette*, and now State Land Commissioner and agent of the Associated Press at Little Rock. The selection was a fortunate one for the visitor in search of information about Arkansas, Mr. Smithee being a native of the State, and having served in the "State forces," journalistic, civil, and military. To this gentleman and his amiable wife this reporter will always feel under the greatest obligations.

## WE SWING AROUND.

A drive after dinner came as a matter of course, and Little Rock was quite thoroughly inspected. Little Rock is what may be called a reconstructed town. Of its early history little has been printed except perhaps in the files of the *Arkansas Gazette*, established in 1819 and still in existence.

## LITTLE ROCK IN 1834

is, however, described in an old book which the writer found in the Mercantile Library at St. Louis, bound up with Janin's "Americans in Paris," and Dickens' "American Notes." The formidable title of the work is "An Excursion through the Slave States from Washington on the Potomac to the Frontier of Mexico, with sketches of Popular Manners and Geological Notices," by George William Featherstonehaugh, F. R. S., F. G. S. This early Arkansas traveler was an Englishman, and traveled in company with his son. The most unfortunate part of his traveling equipment was his stomach, which he ought to have left at home. Wherever he struck good feeding he was pleased with the country, but at Little Rock his appetite appears to have been subjected to various "Southern outrages," and he berates the place and its victuals without stint or measure. He describes the Little Rock of 1834 as a wretched place of 500 or 600 inhabitants, of which a large portion were blacklegs of the deepest darkness. The town was full of dirt and murder, bed-bugs and robbery. The preacher, Rev. Mr. Stevenson, had but one eye and went in rags, and Mr. Featherstonehaugh avows his belief that bibles were a trifle scarcer than in any other town he had ever visited. Mr. Woodruff, of the *Arkansas Gazette*, he describes as a good man, and he has a kind word for Judge Pope, then Governor, who, on the occasion of the geological Britisher's first visit, was out in the woods hunting his pigs. He winds up his description by saying that Little Rock is surrounded by a very poor country, and can never, by any possibility, be a large place. But while we have been talking of the Little Rock of 1834 "the carriage waits," and we will get into it and drive on.

## NUMBER II.

The late Prince Hamlet, of Denmark, upon one occasion used the expression, "Look here, upon this picture, and on this," and the notice of Little Rock in 1834 has been introduced by way of contrast to Little Rock as seen in September, 1875.

We rode several hours and took in many objects of interest, and yet left the business portion of the city almost unvisited. As in many State capitals, the public buildings are in the outskirts of the city, as are many of the finest residences. The first object of interest noticed was the United States Arsenal, located, as are all the military posts we have ever seen, with an eye to taste and comfort. The building is located in the midst of a spacious square shaded with noble trees, and save for the flag flying, a sentry walking his beat, and a few guns, their wheels sunk in grass, one would hardly have imagined that the place had any connection with "grim-visaged war." The residence of Albert Pike was pointed out, a huge affair, remarkable chiefly for its immense vine-enshrouded portico. The life of Albert Pike, originally a Massachusetts carpet-bagger, would form a queer chapter in biography. "Distance lends enchantment," not only "to the view," but frequently to the local great man, and a

citizen of Arkansas, with a lack of reverence frequently observed in his State, remarked to the writer, "The trouble with old Pike is that he is too much like these hot springs over here, there's too much vapor about him." Nevertheless the country owes something to the man who wrote "The Fine Old Arkansas Gentleman," and the beautiful little poetic sketch which has drifted about in the newspapers without credit for years, "The Old Canoe." The National Cemetery, a beautifully kept place, and the Confederate Cemetery were passed, and soon came an object which awakened more varied feelings than any other, natural or artificial, seen in a journey of hundreds of miles—the crumbling earth-works of

#### FORT STEELE.

Often and often the writer has speculated concerning the miles of earthworks thrown up by the Union forces during the war, has wondered whether they had been leveled by the action of the elements or the plow of the farmer, or whether they had been utilized in some other way for roads or other purposes. But here in the midst of a tangled thicket were still to be seen the regular outlines of old Fort Steele. Bushes had grown on the slopes, and the sides of the ditches had fallen in at intervals, yet a few hours' labor would be sufficient to make the work tenable, but all that had made it a fort had long gone. No sentry walked on the parapet, no menacing guns showed their black muzzles over the rampart; no sound of step or voice or drum-beat was heard from within; only the wind rustled in the bushes that waved to and fro, and the wheels of our carriage crunched in the gravel. But time will do its work. The trees will advance upon the fort, will spring up in the ditch, will silently climb up the slopes, will occupy all the space within, and there form their silent parade forever and ever.

#### THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS

passed were St. John's College, a massive building, owned by the Masonic fraternity of Arkansas. One of the cadets of the institution we met by the roadside, clad in a handsome uniform of gray, adopted, however, long before the "blue and the gray" had any special significance. Then there was the Institution for the Blind, and then, after going up hill and down dale for a while, we were

#### AGAIN IN THE CITY,

viewing various school buildings and churches, the largest of the latter belonging to a colored congregation. Little Rock, in the matter of residences, furnishes a variety of architecture unknown in most Northern towns. The Arkansas architect and builder seems to be furnished with lumber in abundance, and then instructed to build any variety of house he pleases, provided he will give plenty of halls and verandas. Ventilation appears to be the principal thing sought after. This rambling, breezy structure frequently has its big chimneys on the outside, and is always located in the midst of a large yard filled with trees and shrubbery. A more desirable hot-weather residence it would be hard

to devise. There are in the city some residences with mansard roofs, numerous gables, and built in the modern, ornamented dry-goods box style, but these houses are all new ones. The old style of house, with its wide hall through the center, in which the proprietor can sit of an evening and play on his violin the "Arkansas Traveller," is far preferable, in our opinion. The business portion of Little Rock, located on two or three streets running parallel with the river, is solidly built up of brick, and may be said to have been created since the war. This portion of the city has suffered in appearance from the recent destruction of the Anthony House. To sum up, when you are in the business part of Little Rock you seem in a Northern city of 20,000 inhabitants; when you are walking along the residence streets you are in the South.

#### ON A PLANTATION.

Leaving the town and going up the river bottom, we traveled a long distance amidst a succession of cotton and corn-fields cultivated by penitentiary convicts, under the management of Mr. Zeb. Ward, formerly of Kentucky, but now lessee of the Arkansas penitentiary. We met a large gang of convicts coming in from their work of cotton-picking. They were heavily guarded by armed men on horseback, and with two or three exceptions the convicts were negroes, selected because they were accustomed to the work. In their striped clothes they formed an unpleasant feature in the landscape, but the penitentiary of Arkansas is a small affair, and outside labor is a necessity. The plantation seemed in a high state of cultivation. Some fields of cotton were snowy white with open bolls, others displayed the dark green of the leaf, and this mass of light and dark was broken by the sober brown of the dead-ripe corn-fields.

The practice of "girdling" is universal in Arkansas, and the white trunks and ghostly limbs of dead trees rising against the sky amid the fields, give the landscape a dreary appearance. As night approaches the "deadening" has an indescribably weird, strange look. One can well imagine that the dreariest scene a painter could depict would be a deserted "deadening" in the midst of the forests, a place where man has come and gone, and left a straggling fence, a white bare spot of earth, dead trees, a ruined cabin and a fireless hearth behind him. This picture always presented itself to our mind's eye whenever a "deadening" came in view. This, however, is a digression from Mr. Zeb. Ward's plantation, which was shown as illustrating the fertility of the river bottom lands in Arkansas. As an illustration it was a success. Mr. Ward himself led us into a perfect jungle of cotton, covering all the ground, much of it rising several feet above a six-footer who was present.

#### GOING BACK

to the city we walked about the gas-lit streets and visited the Chamber of Commerce, where we saw the collection of the products of Arkansas which is being collected for exhibition at Philadelphia in 1876. Without going into details, the collection was

## A REVELATION,

especially in the matter of fruit. Heretofore we would have as soon spoken of oranges in Vermont as apples in Arkansas, but nevertheless Arkansas raises apples as fine and large as ever Vermont did. There were pears also as fine as any we have ever seen from California. The most interesting to us in the collection was, however, the collection of Arkansas wood, and cabinet work constructed of native lumber. The man who finds some use for the timber of Arkansas better than "girdling" or burning it, will be the greatest benefactor the State has ever known. There was, too, coal from the mines up the Arkansas river. Of these mines those of the party who visited them will give an account; the writer cannot speak of them from personal knowledge. He saw, however, "Spadra" coal from Arkansas for sale in St. Louis, and coal that is worth hauling that distance is good, of course.

## THE BANQUET

which took place on the night of the arrival of the party in Little Rock, was spread in Concordia hall. The room was ornamented with American flags and the tables were elegantly laid. Would that George William Featherstonehaugh, F. R. S., F. G. S., could have been there to see and eat. His British bowels would have forgiven the treatment they received in 1834. The "solid food" was first-class, but Arkansas rejoices more in her resources in the line of fluid nourishment. Native wines, particularly a variety made from the Scuppernong, a grape indigenous in the State, are proffered every visitor. It, and for that matter all the native beverages, are highly commended by members of the party who, in their knowledge of drinks, their names, variety, and the amount of them the human frame can stand without instantaneous destruction, have no superiors on this continent.

## WHO WERE THERE.

In the company were several individuals who have acquired a national celebrity in connection with the series of epileptic fits through which Arkansas has passed in the last 10 years. The first of these the writer met was ex-Chief Justice McClure, to whom a veteran Arkansan introduced him after this fashion: "Mr. Commonwealth, allow me to introduce Judge McClure, 'Poker Jack.' You've heard of 'Poker Jack?'" The Judge apparently took no offence, but it struck the other party that it would sound queer in Kansas if Judge Kingman were introduced generally as "Poker Sam." To a Kansan an interesting celebrity was Senator Powell Clayton. In the elegance of his "make-up" and a certain "game" air, Clayton was the most striking-looking man present. Gen. Churchill, who won his title in the Confederate service, looked the "old-fashioned" gentleman. The present Chief Justice, English, wore glasses and had a learned, accurate and statistical appearance; he seemed years ago to have been filed away for future reference. Judge Wilshire, whose carpet-bag has happened to fall on the fortunate side of the fence, was a weather-beaten-looking

person, with a rough voice, such as the writer in his youth has heard at Democratic mass meetings of the second class, on what the roaring orators were accustomed to call "these yer boundless per-raries of Eelinoi." Senator Dorsey, the colleague of Clayton, was a mercantile-looking person with eyeglasses, and kept "hissself to hissself." The welcoming address was delivered by Gen. Robert Newton, a prominent lawyer of Little Rock, who commanded the Baxter troops in the late Brooks-Baxter conflict, and who has by common consent been elected Generalissimo of all the "good fellows" in Little Rock and vicinity. Politicians of both parties and editors of every species known made talks, long and short. The Arkansans held the best hand in the oratorical line, their efforts being generally free from political allusions, always warmly commendatory of their own State—as was proper—and kindly in their tone toward their Northern visitors. Perhaps the most striking speech of the evening, in the true qualities of an after-supper speech, fun and eloquence, was made by Mr. Pomeroy, a Little Rock attorney with newspaper tendencies.

### NUMBER III.

We find that we have stayed up too late at Little Rock, and must make brief notices of other localities visited. The next morning after leaving Little Rock we were at Malvern, on the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, where the narrow-gauge railroad, now in course of construction to Hot Springs, connects with that line. We will not, however, give the bill of fare of the breakfast at Malvern, nor the speech which worthy Mr. Fraser fired at us from the depot platform.

#### THE RIDE ON THE NARROW-GAUGE,

on platform cars, in the early morning, was an exhilarating experience. The engine was ornamented with a crown and cotton-plant, the first thing we had seen or heard of "King Cotton." The road winds among pine-clad hills, which, when rode around, are very picturesque, but when rode over are simply infernal. The railroad lasted seven miles, and then the staging commenced and lasted for, say, twenty miles, though they seemed twenty thousand. Featherstonehaugh, who rode to the Springs from Little Rock in 1834, describes the road as frightful, and the forty years which have passed have improved it but slightly. It made one's bones ache to think of the hundreds of cripples who have been jammed, banged, bumped and thumped over this old "trail." But the railroad will soon have abolished this misery. Maj. Joe Reynolds, of Chicago, the builder, may become the richest man in America.

#### THE FAMOUS HOT SPRINGS

have been often described, particularly of late years, since they have become the resort of Northern invalids. No description, however, ever conveyed to the writer the proper idea of the real appearance of the locality, and he will not



attempt to describe it himself. Imagine Kansas avenue running for a mile or so between two steep, wooded mountains 500 feet high; take space from this for a creek as wide as the Shunganunga when that sweet stream has water in it; run a horse-railway up the middle of this street, and then line both sides of the street with white frame edifices, varying in character from one-story barber-shops, drink-mills and bath-houses, to big, sprawling, wooden hotels, some of them containing 100 rooms each, and you have a dim picture of the town of Hot Springs, a place founded by—well, say inflammatory rheumatism.

#### THE SPRINGS

themselves have been known for a long time. Said an Arkansan to us, "They was known befo' the eighteenth century come in. My great-uncle heard of them in the year 1798, which was befo' the eighteenth century begun." This gentleman, in being a century behind in his calculations, is not entirely alone among the old settlers of Arkansas. In 1834 four or five miserable shanties had been erected near the spot where the 57 springs sent up their vapor above the tops of the bushes, and poured out their 504,000 gallons of water every 24 hours. One of the householders was a Mr. Whittington, and the writer was introduced to a young Mr. Whittington at the Springs, presumably a son of this pioneer. Family names "stick" to localities in Arkansas. Nearly every name prominent in early Arkansas politics can be found either at Little Rock or Helena.

The excursionists remained the guests of the citizens of Hot Springs for a day and night, and were quartered at the Arlington, the Hot Springs, and other hotels. They found the fare generally good, took the baths, which were delightful, gazed at the springs, which are wonderful, and at some of the patients, who were indescribably disgusting. It is the constant presence of crippled and broken-down invalids which must make this medical resort a place of horrors until the eye becomes accustomed to such sights. Of course gallons of the water were drank. It is colorless and tasteless, like any clean warm water, the only noticeable difference being that any quantity of the springs water can be drank without nausea, while anything like as much ordinary warm water would make the drinker throw himself inside out. The water undoubtedly possesses great curative powers, though possibly some of its alleged qualities are fabulous. For instance, it is said to destroy the taste for whisky, but nothing of the kind was observed by the editorial party.

#### AMUSEMENTS

were provided by the citizens. Among other things a dog and bear fight was organized at "the park," the admission being fixed at the ruinously low price of 25 cents. The people had evidently read some of the editorial controversies of their Northern friends, and thought a dog and bear fight would be just in their line. All hands attended, but the bear and dogs, being the most pusillanimous of their respective races, took it all out in growling and howling, instead

of strewing the field with blood, hair, and other substances. On the way to and from the fair grounds several of the party rode in the street-cars with a gentleman who appreciated the power of the press.

## MR. KIRKENDALL

was a tall, bony man, with a sandy beard and light-blue eyes, which, on this occasion, were indisputably "sot." The truth is that Mr. Kirkendall had reached that stage of inebriation which might be called the vociferously friendly. He insisted on paying the car-fare of his editorial friends, and kept up a series of observations something like this: "My name's Kirkendall. I run the independent hack line. I brought yo' all over from Malvern this mawning. Put it down whar it won't git rubbed out, that my name's Kirkendall, and that I run the independent hack line. Do you see yon house? That's Smith's house. He's a nice man, Smith is, and he keeps a nice house. He knows me, for my name's Kirkendall, and I run the independent hack line. I've paid yo' fare on these k'yars. I always was a generous, whole-souled kind of a cuss, and I don't want you to forgit to put it in yo' papers that Kirkendall runs the independent hack line. I fit in the Confedrit army fo' years to free the d—d niggers, and I'se glad they're free. And now my name's Kirkendall, and I run the independent hack line." And so Mr. Kirkendall kept it up until his auditors were fain to join in singing

"Oh, birdie, I am tired now,  
I do not care to hear you sing."

## OFF AGAIN.

Without giving any Jenkinsisms about the ball given at the Arlington and Hot Springs, and reserving some remarks concerning the value and future prospects of the Springs to another paper, the writer will hurry on over the road to Malvern, remarking that we were so fortunate as to traverse the "dirt road" with the loss of only one horse, who broke its leg running down hill and had to be shot.

It was intended to go to Texarkana, but the trip ended substantially at Arkadelphia, where we arrived too late for a warm barbecue and devoured a cold one. At night there were speeches from both sides. The country around Arkadelphia, which is a little old town on the Ouachita, is said to be fertile, and the "black lands" are considered especially valuable. The train run down to some very fine cotton-fields a few miles south. But "Arky" looked very sleepy, and one of the churches had a tree growing out of its side, while the steeple looked as if it had been off somewhere on a "tear" very unbecoming in a steeple. A new-made town like Little Rock makes one sick of old Arkansas towns. More Little Rocks and fewer "Arkys" are what Arkansas needs.

## GOING EAST.

Returning to Little Rock the party divided, the larger portion going west on the Fort Smith road, the minority going east on the Little Rock & Memphis road. The writer went this route because he wished to see the

## GRAND PRAIRIE,

the largest body of prairie land in Arkansas. Stops were made at Carlisle, Lonoke and Prairie Center, all in the Grand Prairie or some of the smaller prairies divided from it by narrow bodies of timber. Grand Prairie is about 100 miles long, and seldom if ever wider than six miles, and is very irregular in its form. It is everywhere skirted by heavy timber, and resembles a bay of grass penetrating into a coast of timber; the shore indented by coves and inlets, and the bay occasionally dotted by islands of timber. The prairie as seen from the cars seems a dead level, but there is really considerable inequality of surface. Where there is a depression or a slough, a "point of timber" will run far out into the prairie. With the exceptions of the stations we have named there was little sign of settlement. Indianians and Illinoisans are now coming in, however.

## BALING HAY

is a business which has been actively carried on in the prairie for the past three years. The prairie hay sells at Memphis at generally remunerative figures. Ex-Governor Hadley, who joined us at Carlisle, is farming and hay-making in the prairie with good success.

## AT BRINCKLEY

we came across the finest saw-mill we saw in Arkansas. It is owned by a Mr. Black, who is said by his neighbors to be making money. The saw-mill and the hay-baling machine, both seen on the line of the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad, encouraged us about the future of Arkansas.

## JOGGING ALONG

in the hot sun, in a perfectly straight line, we came to Devall's Bluff, a famous town during the war, but now the red, dusty streets, running up hill and down, and the low frame houses, seemed to be taking an afternoon doze. It made one think of old afternoons spent in taking troubled naps and fighting flies under a "dog-tent" to look at Devall's Bluff. Crossing White river, we ran a long distance on trestles through

## AN ARKANSAS SWAMP,

which is probably the swampiest swamp in which anybody was ever swamped. The luxuriance of vegetation in these low grounds is wonderful. It seemed as if even the strong-limbed bear could not force his way through the tangled mass of cane and vines which formed in a wall of green nearly as high as the trestle-work, and in which the dark cypress stood nearly waist-deep. All the saw-mills in Arkansas, working for a year, could scarcely make a respectable clearing in such timber. It made one respect the railroad-builder to see that he had forced the wet wilderness to give way for him.

## AT FORREST CITY

our journey eastward ended. This town is four miles west of the St. Francis river, and is located on the famous "Crowley's ridge," a long divide between

the water systems of eastern Arkansas, and in the vicinity of Forrest City separating the waters of the St. Francis and L'Anguille. The town is only five years old, and has, like many Arkansas towns, suffered greatly from fires, but seemed a lively business place. It was smart but ugly. Its situation on the water-shed was indicated by the gulches and gulleys which cut up the town site. The visitors were formally "received," and then assigned to the different hotels for dinner. After this the party were driven out in the country to see the cotton and the corn. The writer did not go out in a big barouche with the mayor and common council, but rode out in a one-horse buggy with an old gentleman who bore the Old Testament name of M. Isaacs. Mr. Isaacs proved to be, like all his people, a clear-headed business man. He cared no more about politics than the mare "Minnie" he was driving. He had lived in St. Louis, in Boonville, Mo., and in Memphis, and for some years past in Forrest City, and thought his pearly eye-teeth had emerged from the rose-pink surface of his gums. He was a gentle-spoken old man, and it was a pleasure to hear him talk, as we rode out on the Helena road and looked at the wide, low-lying cotton-fields, with here and there the white house of the planter, and occasionally a group of cabins occupied by the colored folks, who looked at us fixedly and silently as we passed. It was quite dark when we got back to Forrest City, and soon after our arrival the speech-making began, in which the visitors and the visited told how glad they were to see each other, the addresses closing with a very sensible talk by ex-Governor Hadley.

#### WE TAKE THE BACK TRACK.

Leaving Forrest City, going west, we got to Little Rock about one o'clock on Sunday morning. The party of explorers on the Fort Smith road had returned hours ahead, and were already sleeping in their little Pullmans. Our delegation generally joined them, the writer remaining in Little Rock with Mr. T. B. Mills until Sunday afternoon; and what Mr. Mills said, also what Mr. Isaacs had to say, and what a great many people said in Arkansas, and what the writer thinks of Arkansas agriculturally, minerally, politically, socially and generally, will be reserved for another paper, which will close the observations of "The New Arkansas Traveller."

#### NUMBER IV.

Before the days of railroads a week's travel would give a visitor little or no idea of a State like Arkansas, 241 miles north and south by 285 miles east and west; yet journeying leisurely by railroad, the writer within a week passed through-portions of the counties of Clayton, Lawrence, Jackson, White, Lonoke, Pulaski, Hot Springs, Garland, Clark, Monroe and St. Francis. In that time he saw the largest city and certainly some of the smallest villages in the State; saw barrens, prairies, river bottoms and ridges, and in Garland county got an idea of mountains. He saw lands that raise the finest cotton, and lands that raise nothing but little pines and big rocks. In short, he saw enough to give him an idea of the resources of the State, though, possibly, he may not be fortunate enough to convey that idea to others.

## THE CONCLUSION

drawn from this survey may be briefly summed up as follows: Arkansas is "all sorts" of a State; it is a compound of Pennsylvania and Louisiana, slightly mixed with Illinois and even Vermont. It nowhere, however, looks like Kansas, and to institute a comparison between the two would be like asking a man which he liked best, to eat pumpkin pie or to have his back scratched: The writer has never been able to understand why any man should hew out a farm in the woods while there is any prairie left open for settlement, yet there are plenty of people who think differently, and to this day in Arkansas the prevailing belief appears to be that timber land is the most valuable for agricultural purposes. To people, then, who are fond of woods, Arkansas ought to be a desirable country. We should certainly prefer it to a Northern timbered country. If the timber of the country can be utilized, Arkansas is rich in those forests which have hitherto obstructed her progress. The mineral resources of the State are also unquestionably great, in coal especially.

## THE MINERAL SPRINGS

have brought a great deal of money into the State. This is evidenced by the fact that in a wild country, in a gorge of the mountains, such a town as Hot Springs has been built. We presume a street railway, every rail for which was dragged over a bad country road for over 20 miles, was never seen before. The town of Hot Springs is a wonder, and yet the improvements are not nearly as permanent as would have been the case had not the title to the town site and springs been in dispute between private parties and the United States Government. The case is now in the Supreme Court of the United States, and the decision, whatever it may be, will be fortunate for Hot Springs. The title settled and the railroad completed, Hot Springs will certainly become the great watering-place of the South and West, possibly of the Union. Great hotels will be built and a crowd of visitors from every section of the country coming and going, will bring Arkansas not only money, but what is sometimes better than cash in hand,—advertising.

## THE BEST HOLD

of Arkansas is, unquestionably, the climate. Most people hate cold weather, and Arkansas affords a refuge from it. Bishop Morris, of the Methodist Church, who traversed the country in 1837, and again in 1841, said, writing from Little Rock:

"I have no doubt but this is one of the finest climates in the United States, forming a medium between the extremes north and south, so as to secure its inhabitants generally against the winter fever of the former and the yellow fever of the latter. If climate only were to be considered in selecting a permanent residence, it should be located between the thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth degrees of north latitude, a range which includes Little Rock, and stretches across the Chickasaw purchase in the State of Mississippi, North Alabama, the up-country of Georgia, and the southeast corner of North Carolina."

The writer has no confidence in the theory that a Northern man cannot live in a Southern climate, or that he becomes enervated by it. The man of Anglo-Saxon blood can live anywhere. A Yankee from Maine can thrive in Louisiana. The Highlander of the British army can out-march and out-fight the Sepoy on his native soil, and conquer the Ashantee in his own jungle. The Northern forces serving in the South during the war lost fewer men by sickness than the Southern troops, the difference being probably in the superior hospital resources of the Union army. It is not so much *where* a man lives as *how* he lives that makes the difference in health. The sickest-looking specimen of white humanity is to be found, it is true, in Arkansas, but he is to be found in every Southern State, and his cousin, the "catfish aristocrat," lives on the Missouri river bottom in Kansas and Missouri. The "poor white" is the same everywhere. His jail-fever complexion, his coffee-colored eye, his thin black beard, his hanging under-lip, his lank hair, all set off by his dirty shirt and his tow trousers without suspenders, are the same on the hill-side as in the river bottom. He is a man without any pedigree, and climate has no more to do with his appearance than it has to do with the health of "possums" and jay-birds. Our British traveler, whom we have quoted so often, says that this son of a sand-hill crane would not, in 1834, eat wild ducks or hardly any kind of wild game. Pork, and all pork, had so vitiated his appetite that he could not taste anything. The people who live well in Arkansas, the towns-people more particularly, are fully up to the standard physically.

#### OLD ARKANSAS

illustrated the proverb, "give a dog a bad name and kill him." Admitted as a Territory in 1812, it was not until 1836 that Arkansas became a State; and during this Territorial period it became encumbered with a bad reputation, which clings to it even to this day. It was the happy hunting-ground of outlaws and blacklegs, who took refuge in its swamps, forests and mountains. Every traveler who, in the early days, visited Arkansas, was thoroughly disgusted by the bad roads and the numerous streams to be crossed. To penetrate the country from the Mississippi it was necessary to go through a region of lagoons and bayous, a region nearly submerged at high water, and thus first impressions of Arkansas were unfavorable. Then the talk of the country was of "bars" and "painters," and of the men who killed these brutes, and occasionally let daylight through each other. The late lamented Mr. Bowie, with the delicate disemboweller which bears his name, ranged through the country and laid the foundations of rural graveyards. It was told how Mr. Speaker Wilson, of the Arkansas House of Representatives, met on the floor of the House the Hon. Mr. Anthony, and how each took the chair—to fend off—and made motions—with knives—until Mr. Anthony yielded up not only the floor but the ghost.

In contrast to these came brighter scenes as described in Porter's "Quarter Race in Arkansas," "The Adventures of an Arkansas Doctor," and lastly the famous tune and recitative of the "Arkansas Traveler." The memory of Col. "Sandy" Faulkner, the original "Arkansas Traveler," who died not long since,

is tenderly preserved in Arkansas, and his violin is now for sale in Little Rock, its price being fixed at \$100. But Mills, who sells land, and has "no nonsense about him," is of the opinion that the "Arkansas Traveler" has been a curse to the State, the dialogue conveying the impression that the native "Rackensacker" is an idle dog that will never fix his leaking roof in this world. There may be something in this theory. At any rate, everything told about Arkansas in early times was such as to prejudice the Northern emigrant against it, leaving out the matter of slavery, everywhere a barrier against the Northerner.

#### MINOR TROUBLES.

The war did nothing, of course, to help Arkansas, and immediately after its close began those political squabbles, and that rapid succession of Governors, which attracted attention and remark the reverse of complimentary. It is not our purpose to lead our readers into the maze of Arkansas politics, but merely to state that in the midst of these troubles

#### NEW ARKANSAS

was built up. The burden of the speeches at the Little Rock banquet was that "the troubles" had retarded the growth of the State, but it is our conviction that in spite of "the troubles" the State has been doing very well. In 1862 Arkansas had 85 miles of railroad, in 1872, 258 miles, and now has, or had a few days ago, 706 miles of completed railroad. The great road of the State, the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern, cuts across the State diagonally as the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe does in Kansas, and then the Memphis & Little Rock and the Little Rock & Fort Smith cross the State from east to west. Then there are numerous other roads in all stages of progress. As "the troubles" have not hurt the railroads, so they have not hurt the city of Little Rock, which has grown from 3,000 to 12,000 inhabitants since the war. Neither have they hurt Helena. Not only have the old towns grown, but new ones have plentifully sprung up. New Arkansas is by no means the garden spot of the world, but it is far in advance of old Arkansas.

#### WHAT DID IT.

The principal cause of this improvement is railroads and carpet-baggers. The writer has always believed that the cry against carpet-baggers in the South was the result of partisanship and prejudice, and its echo in the North the manifestations of childish stupidity. Arkansas with its six great rivers can never be opened without railroads, and can never be settled without carpet-baggers. You can go nowhere in Little Rock or in the improved parts of the State without seeing evidence of Northern money and enterprise. Northern men have advertised Arkansas as she was never advertised before. Theodore B. Mills has introduced into the State the system of land advertising of which he was one of the originators in Kansas, and is worth more to-day to Arkansas than all the politicians, native and foreign, black and white and mixed, in the State, and in this connection we may say that the enterprise of Mr. Mills and his partners is very generally appreciated.

## THE POLITICAL CONDITION

of the State is a matter of general inquiry, but the writer confesses that he took little pains while in Arkansas to investigate the matter. He found political newspaper correspondents were off color. Both sides insisted that they had been belied, and that newspaper men from abroad made no attempt to tell the facts. Just now a government is in power with which the Democrats are immensely pleased, and which the Republicans accept without grumbling. Ex-Governor Hadley, a Republican, in his speech at Forrest City, spoke in commendatory terms of the present Governor, Garland. The Brooks-Baxter war was a tempest in a tea-pot, but it left the tea-pot cleaner after it was over. If the present administration has a fault it is a tendency to antediluvianism. There seems to be too much bull-tongue plow and blue jeans about it. Several straws floating about indicated that the educational arrangements of the State were going backward instead of forward. The office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction has been merged with that of Secretary of State, a bad movement. The Agricultural College at Fayetteville appears to be nearly or quite broken up, and there was considerable significance in the remark made by a long-legged youth at Arkadelphia. In reply to the question whether they had public schools or not, he said that they had them (common schools) two years ago, but not now; that they did not work well and "injured the other schools," meaning the "subscription schools." This was evidence enough of their efficiency. But Arkansas is going to move ahead. The young men of the State and the emigrants will not allow any well-meaning grannies to stop the car of progress.

## THE COLORED VOTER

has "got left." All parties were represented at the Little Rock banquet save his. Nobody counts on him, and he is generally "scooped." His "craw" is not sufficiently filled with silicious matter and he has lost his chance. He does the hard work of the country, picks cotton, is sometimes a section hand on the railroad, but save that he no longer takes off his hat or speaks to a white man he does not know, he is about the same as of yore. Contradictory stories are told about him. Mr. Isaacs, of Forrest City, represents him as fair pay, reasonable, honest and industrious, and generally a good citizen who "kept straight" and sent his children to school. A large planter near Little Rock said the colored laborer was a natural gambler and spent his wages every week in negro gambling hells and saloons in Little Rock. We heard no complaint, however, of the scarcity of labor. As a laborer the free colored man in Arkansas is a success, but he is "ruinated" as a politician.

## THE ARKANSAS GENTLEMAN

still survives. We met him numerously and he made good speeches. No more generous and winning hospitality was ever exhibited than his. He said he was glad to see us, and wanted Northern men to come down to Arkansas and settle,



and it would be ungenerous to disbelieve in his sincerity. Because we found him so good a fellow personally, we wish him a happy riddance of his political prejudices, and especially his reverence for things as they were in 1836. We wish Arkansas good luck, more railroads, a thousand fold more schools, more public benevolent institutions, more carpet-baggers, more wheat, more double-shovel plows, more towns like Little Rock. With these Arkansas, the "woods colt," will become one of the most "stylish" flyers on Uncle Sam's course.

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## FROM THE "EMPORIA NEWS."

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JACOB STOTLER, CORRESPONDENT.

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On the 27th of September we left Emporia for a look at the State of Arkansas. We had been honored with an invitation from Col. J. M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, and Col. T. B. Mills, land agent at Little Rock, to join an editorial excursion which was to leave St. Louis the next evening for a tour through that State. We were the more anxious to make this trip, and the more thankful to the above named gentlemen for offering us the opportunity, because we had never been in any of the Southern States. We desired to see the condition of the country and people for ourselves, and the desire has been gratified. We propose to devote considerable space to a description of what we saw.

There is nothing of interest on the trip from here to Topeka. At Topeka we got a meal at the eating-house. There is a good deal of the white apron "style" here, and not much to eat. The dishes brought were small, and not much food per dish. But when the proprietor has a good thing he believes in letting his guests share it with him, at the usual 75 cents per head. For instance, we had two kinds of pie, both apple, and two kinds of rice, both boiled. While we were satisfying our hunger, in came our friend Noble L. Prentis, of the *Commonwealth*, carpet-bag in hand, and we were more than gratified to learn that he, too, was booked for the Arkansas excursion.

Armed with the necessary credentials from Col. Tom Anderson, we boarded the Santa Fe train over the Midland, for Kansas City. We had not been over this part of the State since the days of the Terrys and their stage-coaches, and the trip from here to Lawrence, on the new and smooth road, was one of interest. We looked in vain for old Tecumseh. The road runs along the bottoms and in the woods, and a search for the "landmarks" of the old hill road is so much gazing out of the window for nothing. Soon the brakeman sang out "Lecompton." But little of the ancient capital is visible. In fact,

there is but little of it. Our mind immediately reverted to the day when we had last seen this historic place, which, in Territorial days, was the rendezvous of border ruffians, and all that was infamous in Pierce and Buchanan Democracy. On the day mentioned the Territorial Legislature adjourned from Lecompton to Lawrence, the "Abolitionists" of the latter place having "got away" with Lecompton, Hugh Walsh and all. Uncle Chester Thomas and Judge Nate Price, as members of the Territorial Council, had "lifted" us into the position of Assistant Secretary, and Secretary John J. Ingalls (now Senator) and ourself mounted the "upper deck" of a stage-coach and carried the "archives" of the old Territorial Council to the historic city. That was the last we ever saw of Lecompton, and the fate which was then predicted for it followed speedily. We could see from the car window a few of the old buildings, and when we think what Lecompton's prospects once were, and what it is to-day, the prospect is one of inexpressible loneliness.

We arrived at Kansas City at 4.20. Contrary to our expectations, we found that "transportation" to St. Louis had not been arranged for, as promised; or rather, if it had, all traces of it had melted away in the fire which had destroyed the Union depot but a few days before. It looked for a time as though our excursion had been brought to an abrupt termination. Prentis busied himself running through the crowd of railroaders to find something or somebody who knew something about the great Arkansas excursion. Singular as it may seem, our Kansas City friends of the press knew nothing of it. But good fortune threw us in the hands of Pangborn, of the *Times*, and Col. Cobb, of Wyandotte, and we finally found a gentleman who made it all right with the conductor of the Missouri Pacific train, and we got to St. Louis next morning, "right side up with care."

#### THE START.

There was a crowd at the Iron Mountain ticket office under the Southern hotel Tuesday evening, selecting berths and preparing for the trip. The train moved out of St. Louis at nine o'clock p. m. the 28th, with about 100 editors, and a few others who had been fortunate enough to receive "invites." Among those who accompanied the excursion were Col. Loughborough, who used every endeavor throughout the trip for the comfort and enjoyment of his guests; T. B. Mills, well known in Kansas; Hon. Logan H. Roots, an ex-member of Congress from Arkansas; Judge Shirk, of Peru, Indiana, who has traveled almost the entire State, and has made investments there, and others. There were other gentlemen along for various purposes, for a description of which see Prentis' account of the trip. In the morning we awoke at an early hour and found our train at Moark, just over in Arkansas. The town takes its name from the usual abbreviation in the names of the two States, Mo. and Ark., being a combination of the two. The red soil showed that we had got out of the influence upon it of the Iron Mountain regions. It was to us a new sight. On the one hand was the old-fashioned "deadening" of the early days of Ohio and Indiana. In the midst of this was the settler's rude log cabin, the whole tinged with the bright

and genial rays of the early sunlight, while the smoke from the stick and mud chimney ascended skyward, betokening perfumes of crackling hog-meat and strong coffee inside the cabin. The country was heavily timbered here, mostly with a tall slim tree called the gum. There was also plenty of white oak, hickory, etc. The country for many miles is level. We soon caught a glimpse of the first cotton-field we ever saw. In this section this crop, as well as the corn, is rather small, although there were some creditable fields of the latter. One of the party who is acquainted with the State told an anecdote here which we all relished. Some travelers happened in the town one cold Sabbath morning, and wanted something "warming." After searching around some time they espied the ever-present sign, "Saloon." On inquiring where the keeper might be found they were told he was the superintendent of the only Sabbath school in the village, and it would be impossible to have the saloon opened until the school adjourned, as the superintendent was a little scrupulous about running the school and the saloon at the same time. After the school was over they had no trouble in inducing the superintendent to open his "place of business" and accommodate them with all the "bug-juice" they wanted. This is not a fancy sketch, but genuine. He has since resigned the superintendency of the school.

#### BREAKFAST.

At an early hour we ate a good breakfast at Walnut Ridge. While the train was waiting a large black bear chained to a post amused the company with many antics. He seemed to have a particular liking for the Chicago *Times* man, who was about heavy enough for a good morning lunch. Had the bear taken it into his head to chaw up the Chicago Bohemian, the "audience" would have had a shocking illustration of the old saying in regard to conveying in'ards to a bear. But the animal was in extremely good humor, and was evidently on his good behavior, so we were all aboard again "without the loss of one." Walnut Ridge is in a beautiful scope of country. In this section of the State we passed several new towns which have been laid out since the railroad was constructed. Black river, along which we traveled, is a beautiful stream, navigable for a long distance above. At Newport we crossed White river, which is quite a large stream, and is navigable to some point up in Missouri.

#### NEW TOWN AND COLLEGE.

Further on we came to Judsonia, a new town located on the Little Red river at the railroad crossing. This is 50 miles north of Little Rock. It is a Baptist colony, and was recently removed from some point further in the interior. It is the seat of Judson University, Rev. Benjamin Thomas, a live and thorough-going Welshman, having charge of the institution. He boarded the train here and accompanied us on the trip. Here we saw the first bale of cotton, and surrounding it was an American flag. It is expected by Mr. Thomas that there will be 500 students at the next session of the college. The timber land in this section is good and can be bought for \$5 and \$6 per acre. The timber is worth

many times the price, and can be shipped to St. Louis at very reasonable figures. We have no doubt but that Judsonia will become a thriving town, and the surrounding country prosperous and desirable. The Little Red is a fine stream.

The next station is Searcy. The main town is located four and a half miles back from the railroad, and is connected with the station by a horse railroad. The town of Searcy contains about 2,000 population and has fine sulphur springs. Here Col. Frolich, a Searcy editor, came on board and accompanied the excursion south. He is a very intelligent gentleman, and gave the excursionists much valuable information in regard to the State.

#### AT LITTLE ROCK.

About one o'clock we came in sight of the Arkansas river and Little Rock, the capital of Arkansas. The river here is not much wider than the Ouachita, but is a much more valuable stream, because it is navigable almost the entire year. From here we have a fine view of Little Rock, as it lies stretched along the high hills on the south bank of the river. Crossing the fine bridge of the Iron Mountain Railroad Company, we are soon at the depot. A splendid band greeted us with its music, and hundreds of citizens were there with carriages, hacks, etc., to welcome the editors and carry them to their various homes for dinner. Stepping from the train we grasped the hand of Geo. K. Farquhar, Esq., a friend of our boyhood days, and were soon welcomed by his estimable wife, with whom we were well acquainted in the good old "days of yore" in Wilmington, Ohio. Our friend had been in Little Rock nearly three years, and is highly pleased with the country and the city.

After a chat over old times, and a good dinner, a ride to the cotton-plantations and over the city was next proposed. Above the city, on the Arkansas river, we saw cotton six and seven feet high, and heard explained the process of growing, ripening, picking, &c. It was a sight of much interest to us. Returning, we rode over the city, viewing its beautiful residences, its well-built business streets, and points of interest. The State House stands on the bank of the river, in a grove of noble shade-trees. It is rather an old-fashioned looking building, and is a relic of the "old Arkansas." As we saw Little Rock we thought it one of the cleanest, shadiest and handsomest towns in all our travels. The residences are built with a special view to securing the southern breeze, and wide halls and porches were the prevailing style. There were many more modern buildings. Above town, on the Arkansas, stand several residences which, for size and elegance, cannot be excelled anywhere. Among these are the residences of Senators Clayton, Dorsey, and others. The city contains a population of 20,000. It has mostly been built since the war, having only 5,000 population previous to that time. Its prospects are most encouraging. What it wants now, more than anything else, is large manufacturing establishments, and these it will have at no distant day, because it has all that nature can give to make it a manufacturing town. There is comparatively little now in this line, probably on account of the lack of home

capital and enterprise, and from the heretofore unsettled condition of politics. Its business streets are as well built as those of any other city of its size we were ever in. The town, like the State, is just awakening from its sleep of so-called chivalric indolence and violence, and is beginning to breathe a newer and fresher air, and to reach out for a new and prosperous life. The people begin to realize something of the destiny within their grasp, and have broken the shell of selfishness and folly which has so long held back almost every portion of the South. They begin to realize that they cannot live without meeting with and invoking the aid of their fellow-men, irrespective of political opinions. They now look with smiles upon a blue-bellied Yankee, and invite him to come there and live. Little Rock has taken a "new departure," and we shall be somewhat mistaken if, within the next decade, her population does not go up from 50,000 to 75,000 in number. If it does not, the fault will lie at her own door.

The public buildings pointed out were the Capitol, Governor Garland's spacious residence, the penitentiary near the city, St. John's College, owned by the Masonic fraternity and well conducted, and the Insane Asylum. For the benefit of Kansans we will say that the State penitentiary is so conducted as not to cost the State a cent. In this particular Arkansas is to be envied by Kansas.

#### THE BANQUET.

At Concordia Hall, in the evening, the editors were given a banquet. This we did not attend, preferring to enjoy the short time allotted us in this city to interviewing our friend Fagupor about Arkansas, and talking over old times. The banquet was a splendid affair in all particulars. After feasting to their hearts' content, the editors were orated to by citizens, and many of them made good replies. The "lion and the lamb" have laid down together in Little Rock, and there was a general and good-natured mixing of Republicans and Democrats on this occasion, as on all others throughout the trip. The ex-soldiers on both sides seem to have forgotten their old animosities, and Senator Powell Clayton and ex-rebel General Churchill were both at the entertainment. Even the Baxter-Brooks trouble is almost forgotten. The points of interest in this struggle were shown only after being inquired for, and the impression we got from all quarters was that there had been a general wiping-out in the State, and a determination on the part of all to devote every effort to reforming the follies of the past, and to unite in efforts for the upbuilding of the interests of the State.

T. B. MILLS.

Before leaving the capital city we desire to say a word of this gentleman, so well known in Kansas. He occupies one of the largest and most prominent buildings in the city, and is doing as great a work for Arkansas as he did some years ago for this State. He circulates monthly 30,000 copies of his *Spirit of Arkansas*, a well-conducted real estate paper. What the capital of Kansas lost when he left was gained by the capital of Arkansas, and from expressions we

heard everywhere, the people there fully appreciate his efforts. He is doing a great work in the way of bringing the advantages of that State to the notice of the public and in developing its great resources, and his many Kansas friends will be glad to learn of his success.

#### MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE.

From Mr. Mills' office we visited the hall of the Merchants' Exchange, where we found on exhibition specimens of the products of Arkansas. These embraced all the fruits, cereals, grasses, woods, minerals, etc. It would take an hour to tell what there is here. The specimens would be a credit to any State in the Union. In fruits Arkansas will compare favorably with any display we have seen. We were particularly interested in the display of the woods. Several kinds are susceptible of the highest polish, and beautiful combinations of natural colors can be made, which makes the handsomest furniture we ever saw. A specimen manufactured of the different kinds proves this. Col. Loughborough had a department at the St. Louis Fair of all her products, which excelled that made by any State. These must be seen to be appreciated.

#### OFF FOR HOT SPRINGS.

At the close of the Little Rock banquet we boarded the train for the south part of the State, intending to stop at Hot Springs, which are among the wonders of the American continent. On awaking the next morning we found our train

#### AT MALVERN,

a new railroad town 40 miles south of Little Rock. Here we partook of a splendid breakfast provided at the two hotels. The village is inhabited by a wide-awake people. Here we found a narrow-gauge railroad being constructed to the springs. We rode out on this about eight miles in platform cars with board seats. The country about Malvern is heavily timbered and desirable. The grade of the road is almost finished to Hot Springs, which is some 30 miles northeast of Malvern. It is expected this road will be running trains by the first of December. At the end of the track we found the reception committee from Hot Springs with Concord stages, hacks, carriages, wagons, etc., and a complete outfit of marshals and aids, to convey us to the springs. The ride was a hard and dusty one. It was impossible to make any speed, because the road was a constant succession of rough, stony hills of considerable height. It was the roughest staging we had ever experienced.

The heaviest timber we saw in the State was along this road. The majority of the trees were magnificent pines, but there were a great number of large, straight white oaks, which naturally called forth the admiration of one who has spent 18 years on the prairies. There were frequent small valleys, and in these were rich farms. We saw several fields of corn along this road which were nearly as good as our Neosho valley fields. We judge that 50 to 60 bushels per acre will be the yield here. There were some orchards, but the fruit we

saw here was small. Late peaches were abundant. The houses were those so common in the South, a double-cabin with a large porch or opening in the middle. The few cattle seen were small, and the hogs were all of the regular Arkansas pattern. The farming was generally very slouchy, and the places were grown to weeds and underbrush, and the prospect was not very inviting. We passed one school-house; it was built of logs, with no "chinking" or filling between them. Along the walls were arranged the high and rough desks for writing which were in vogue in Ohio 30 years ago. The observer can come to but one conclusion as to the needs of this country, and that is that it wants to get rid of the population which permits such a state of things, and have it peopled by live and enterprising inhabitants. It would be too tedious an operation to educate these people up to the progress of the present day. The land is cheap, and with the advent of railroads and the restoration of peace and toleration, the "Arkansas Traveler" will give way before a better race of people. About two o'clock we entered the town of

#### HOT SPRINGS.

This place surprised us in two respects. It is a larger and much livelier city than we had expected to see. Until within a few years it was little known. We confess we were not prepared to see street cars and a large and lively daily paper. If we had read of these we had forgotten them. The town is stretched along a narrow valley, and is about two miles long. The street is a wide one, and there is just room for rows of buildings on either side, before the mountains are reached. A few houses are built up on the sides of the hills. These mountains reach a height of several hundred feet. Owing to a dispute between the Government and some private parties as to the title to the land on which the city is built, no very permanent improvements have been made. The houses are nearly all inferior frame buildings. There are a few good ones. The Arlington House is a large building, conveniently arranged, and is in every way a first-class hotel. There are two or three other good hotels in the place, while the smaller kind of taverns and boarding-houses are almost innumerable. We should say about two-thirds of the buildings had out signs, where strangers could be accommodated in various styles of life. The richer invalids, of course, inhabit the large hotels. Some, who go there to stay some length of time, erect or rent board shanties. Most of the cheaper buildings are simply set up on blocks, without wall foundation or "under-pinning," and are boarded up and down.

There are paths leading up the mountains from the street and rear of the buildings, and it is not a very difficult task to ascend. There are 57 of these hot springs located on the mountain side east of the town. They are the most wonderful curiosity we have ever seen. They are of various sizes, and the water from all of them is so hot that one unused to it can scarcely hold a finger in it any length of time. Small houses are built over some of these springs and pools are dug out large enough to admit the bodies of two or three persons at

once. At one of these we saw a white and colored man lying together bathing. At another there were two men with pants rolled up above their knees sitting with their feet in the water and throwing it upon their limbs with their hands, while outside the door laid an almost helpless woman, sorely afflicted. Some invalids have rude cabins near the springs and stay there. The large hotels and some of the better residences and boarding-houses have bathing-houses attached, and the water is brought down the mountain side to these by means of pipes and wooden troughs. Most of these springs have names, some of which are curious and significant. One of the largest flows out from under the rocks near the Arlington hotel, and is called the "Arsenic" spring—why, we did not learn. There is almost a constant stream of invalids to this spring, because it is one of the handiest to get at, who drink its water by the quart every day. They come with small tin pails and carry it away to those who are not able to walk to it. There is something so disagreeable about the very thought of drinking hot water that it was with difficulty we could bring our courage to the point of tasting it, but on doing so the sensation was rather agreeable than otherwise. Those who are used to it drink it with a relish. The effect is both pleasant and beneficial. Wonderful cures of certain diseases are made by bathing in and drinking this water. There are at all times several thousand invalids visiting these springs, and their fame is not confined to America. Our stage driver informed us he had carried over persons this season from different parts of Europe, who had crossed the ocean to test its qualities. He told us also that he had carried persons from Malvern who were hardly able to stand the stage ride, the roughness of which had caused them to scream out with pain often, and had carried them back in a few months new beings, thanking everybody they met, and rejoicing that they had found the Jordan which had removed the terrible diseases with which they were afflicted, like Naaman of old.

Hot Springs has a live daily paper, the *Telegraph*, many fine business establishments, street-cars, a park, and many other of the accompaniments of a young city. Its permanent population, as near as we could ascertain, is from 5,000 to 6,000. It is hoped by all that the title to the land will be found to belong to the Government, and that measures will be taken to prevent a monopoly of the springs, as it will undoubtedly become if left in the hands of private individuals. Even now the rentals of the ground form a munificent income. That a large city is to be built here there is not a doubt. It will soon have railroad connection, through the enterprise of a Chicago man, who is building the narrow-gauge road, and will become the great rendezvous of the unfortunate from all over the world.

The excursionists were extended a fine banquet and ball by the citizens, which all enjoyed who attended. There were good speeches, fine ladies, and something to cheer the pleasure-seeking "pencil-shovers," and the hospitality of the Springs people was unbounded. Of course our visit there was one long to be remembered. It would take more room than we can spare to tell all we would like to about this town and its curiosities, and to thank its people properly for their kindness.



## A RUNAWAY.

At an early hour next morning we took the stages to return to Malvern. In going down a rough hill the brake on our coach gave way, precipitating the heavily loaded vehicle on the horses with more power than they liked, and so we had a runaway. It was an ugly place for such a performance, and we were in much danger of injury, but the driver kept a cool head, and at the proper place ran the team into a high rail fence, which killed one of his horses almost instantly. Fortunately not one of the dozen persons on the coach were injured.

## AT ARKADELPHIA.

Arriving at Malvern we again took our places in the cars to accept the invitation of the good people of Arkadelphia to attend and partake of a regular old-fashioned barbecue. This place is about 40 miles south of Malvern. The accident above related and other circumstances had detained us about three hours, so that the people of Arkadelphia were not only disappointed, but their dinner had lost something by reason of becoming cold. We moved through this town to a fine pine grove where the long tables were set loaded with the good things. We guess the excursionists convinced the good people of that town that they know their duty when called upon to eat free dinners. There were some handsome ladies present, and we were glad to notice that some of our young quill-drivers had brought along a good supply of gallantry. Our young friend Robinson, of the Fort Wayne (Ind.) *Gazette*, did the agreeable. Arkadelphia is a town of about 2,500 people, who seem to be fully awake to the importance of getting in some people to help develop her resources. Though the town has some old tumble-down and dilapidated buildings, it has many that are a credit to it. It is located near the Ouachita river, and is said to be the center of a fine agricultural region. We saw here as good corn as at any point on the route, and the cotton was extra. Very fine fruits of all kinds are raised here. The apples raised are perfect. The boasting engaged in at this town about everything made us think that we were in a regular Kansas city.

After eating we ran a few miles south to take a look at the cotton-fields, and see the hands gathering in the snowy product. Returning to the depot, a couple of hours were spent in speech-making. We have not time to notice these. Those made by Arkansans overflowed with expressions of hospitality, fraternity, and love for the old Union. The editor of the Arkadelphia paper, whose name we have forgotten, welcomed the excursionists. We liked our treatment here, and also the looks of the town and country, but we were more than pleased with the expressions of friendly feeling for the North, and for the whole country.

## A DISAPPOINTMENT.

All were disappointed at the announcement that this was the end of our journey southward. It was the original intention to go on to Texarkana, on the line between Arkansas and Texas. All were anxious to see the famous Red

River country, and the people at different points further on had prepared receptions for the editors.

#### BACK TO LITTLE ROCK.

In the morning, on awaking, we found ourselves on the track at Little Rock. Col. Loughborough had, with his characteristic large-heartedness and forethought, caused a fine breakfast to be prepared at the railroad eating-house. After this the excursionists, thinking it but right and proper to give formal expression to their feelings in regard to the State and the

#### MAGNIFICENT MANNER

in which they had everywhere been treated by both the officers of the road and the people, held a meeting and adopted appropriate resolutions.

#### OTHER EXCURSIONS.

We found at Little Rock invitations to spend a day on the Memphis & Little Rock and Little Rock & Fort Smith roads. As there was not time for one train to make both runs, it was divided, the members choosing for themselves which direction they would go. The crowd divided about equally, a portion going toward Memphis and the balance toward Fort Smith. We took the latter train, and are not sorry we did so, as we had a splendid ride up the Arkansas valley, the road running near the river and through a rich country. Our train was under the charge of T. Hartman, superintendent, and was accompanied by Land Commissioner W. D. Slack. Both these gentlemen were untiring in their efforts for the comfort of their guests, and in imparting all information sought. They are well posted, unassuming, and are thorough railroaders. A splendid lunch was prepared in an express car, which was devoured with a relish. Col. Pierce, a generous-hearted and intelligent gentleman from Little Rock, was with us on this trip, as well as the one south. The Little Rock & Fort Smith road is now finished to within 48 miles of the latter place, and will be pushed through this winter. It is the intention to finally connect with the M., K. & T. road at Fort Gibson. When it does, this part of Kansas will have direct communication with the pine and coal regions of Arkansas.

The principal towns on this trip were Lewisburg, Russellville and Clarksville. At the first named place the train stopped a few minutes, and the excursionists were entertained by a short speech from William C. Stout, whom they called out, who is editor of the weekly *State*, printed here. The main town is back from the road, and contains a population of 1,000. The surrounding country is beautiful and rich. In fact, it has one of the best-looking localities we saw in Arkansas. Quite a number of ladies and gentlemen were gathered on the platform, and there were present a fine display of the products of the soil. Some belleflower apples here were as large, sound and beautiful as we ever saw. We brought away a specimen of Tappahannock wheat which yielded 25 bushels per acre and weighed 62 pounds to the bushel. The grain is large and of a splendid color. The people here seemed to be very happy and contented, and

above average intelligence. Clarksville is one of the historic towns of the State. There have been many deeds of violence here. We stopped long enough to take a look at the town. It contains about 2,000 population. It has two splendid mills. Many of the houses are small. A court-house square stands in the centre, with not much to brag of in the way of a building. The business part of the town surrounds this square. From here we went west to the immense Spadra coal mines. These were worked to a small extent thirty years ago. The present company have just commenced taking out coal, having rigged complete machinery for that purpose. The vein is from four to five feet thick, and the quality the best that is found in the country lying west of the Mississippi. There are other coal mines on the road. The road passes through the heart of a coal country 1,200 square miles in extent. It has 1,000,000 acres of the finest lands in the Arkansas valley, which were granted in 1853, and have been reserved ever since. Much of this land is in the best improved sections of the valley, and is offered cheap and on long time. On the return we ate a grand supper at Russellville, prepared on the order of the officers of the road. Here our friend Pierce delivered a short after-supper speech, and moved a vote of thanks to Messrs. Slack and Hartman, and all concerned, for the ride, and to the people along the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad for the generous treatment and reception everywhere given the editors, which motion was carried unanimously and with a vim.

At 10 o'clock Saturday night we arrived at the Little Rock depot, to find that our friends who had taken the east portion of the excursion were three hours late. This was occasioned by the extra good time they had and by the large number of points of interest they had to visit.

We left Little Rock about one A. M. Sunday morning for the return to St. Louis. The excursionists were pretty well tired out with riding, banqueting, sight-seeing, etc., and quietly dozed or put in the time reading. Leaving Little Rock in the night gave us an opportunity of seeing by daylight that portion of Missouri passed in the night going down.

We took dinner at Arcadia, after which a banner made of native cotton was presented to the excursionists by the people of Hope—a live new town further south than our trip extended—through Col. Loughborough. A neat and appropriate response was made by Capt. Cole, of the Huntington (Ind.) *Journal*. Before separating here

#### THREE ROUSING CHEERS FOR LOUGHBOROUGH

were given, when "all aboard" was sounded and we were off for St. Louis. Soon after we had a fine view of the famous Iron Mountains and of Pilot Knob battle-field. All know the wealth of this region in iron ore, and a description is unnecessary.

We reached St. Louis after seven o'clock, when the excursionists separated for their various homes in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

There was but one impression among the excursionists, and that was that the trip had been one of the most agreeable and profitable ever taken by them. They learned much of Arkansas which will be of value to them in the future.

#### CONCLUSIONS.

Even though this article is long, but a hasty glance could be given at the country and its resources. It would take twice the room we have occupied to do even justice to the State. We confess our mind has undergone a great change in regard to Arkansas. Little has been said about it until lately, and we thought it a poor, barren and half-heathenish country. Our opinions of it have not changed simply because we were invited to a free ride. Excursions are plenty and cheap. We went with a sincere desire to see and learn. We give the result candidly, and if anybody in the State or out of it shall be benefited thereby we are glad. The worst side of Arkansas has been out. There is still quite a large element of the lank, cadaverous ruffian in the State, but it is rapidly taking a "back seat," and that it has a glorious future we have no doubt. That there are large fortunes to be made there we have no doubt. A State with all its wealth of timber—fifteen millions of acres—with its 3,500 miles of navigable streams; with its thousands of acres of coal-fields; with its wonderful springs; with its fertile soil; with its iron, zinc and lead ore; with its water-power; and perhaps better than all, with its temperate and healthy climate, cannot help but become great.

We talked with and mixed with all kinds of people, and made extensive inquiry into the situation of affairs. Mr. Farquhar, of whom we spoke in this article before, gave us much information, and we know him to be an honest and trustworthy man. We talked with white and colored men of both parties. That Arkansas has been literally and unmercifully robbed by a "ring" since the war, there is not a shadow of doubt. We regret to say that we are forced to the conclusion that most of this was done in the name of Republicanism. Little Rock alone was robbed of \$300,000, and now has nothing to show for it. Both sides now admit previous wrongs, and both seem determined to unite in restoring the State and in developing her resources. The speeches everywhere, by Democrats, ex-rebels and all, teemed with loyal expressions, urging good-fellowship, and we have no doubt of their sincerity. In the new Constitution ample provision is made for the payment of old debts, while future extravagance is sufficiently guarded against, and liberal provision is made for schools. The State is now as quiet as any other, and we believe a man is as safe there as anywhere. The negroes are treated well, and we learned that there are several of them holding office at Little Rock and elsewhere under Democratic rule. A colored man told us that his people had found out that "the ring," as it is universally called there, had only been using them as a foot-ball, and that they were as well treated under the present Democratic rule as they were before. The colored men are about equally divided between the two parties. The Baxter and Brooks trouble grew out of the ambitious schemes of the ring which was endeavoring to rob Arkansas of everything, more than out of politics. Brooks

was undoubtedly honestly elected Governor, but "the ring" figured Baxter into the office because they thought they could use him for some of their gigantic railroad and other frauds. When they found they could not do so, but that he was honest, and opposed to them, they got up the Brooks trouble. This is the matter in a nut-shell. The present Governor is very popular, and is respected and upheld by all. Of course the State is under Democratic rule. Some seem to think this is the cause of the present peace and quiet. We believe it is because *the people* of the State rule, and we trust they will be allowed to regulate their own affairs, no matter what party is in power, so long as they are in harmony with the constitution of the country. This is the true Republican doctrine. Arkansas will never again submit to the "rule and ruin" of such a set of scalawags and thieves as she has been cursed with since the war, and the people would be poltroons and unworthy to be called American citizens if they did. Altogether, Arkansas was raised 100 per cent. in our estimation by personal observation of her resources and contact with her people. Let her go on in the "new departure" she has started upon, and she will soon be one of the brightest of the thirty-nine stars on the American banner.

## CHAPTER X.—MICHIGAN.

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FROM THE "DETROIT EVENING NEWS."

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DR. J. A. STINSON, CORRESPONDENT.

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ARKANSAS it will be recollected became a State in 1836—the same year that Michigan did. Our own State having lapped over her twin sister something over a hundred per cent. in population, the intercourse between the two States being very limited, your correspondent bethought himself to go down and find out

### SOMETHING ABOUT ARKANSAS

and the causes of her backwardness. It is an old country, and yet very new. The French first settled there in 1685, almost 200 years ago. They found it inhabited by a band of Indians, whose name was spelled *Ar-kan-sa*. The French could not get along without an S at the end of the name, so they tacked it on, and it has stuck ever since. The best authorities pronounce it *Arkan-saw*, accent on last syllable. This is a State of no mean proportions—242 miles long (north to south) by an average width of 200 miles, containing 33,500,000 acres—it may be called

### A SMALL EMPIRE,

but unfortunately it lacks one of the most important elements of an empire, for in all that vast region there can scarce 600,000 souls be counted. There's "a great deal of land to the acre" down there, and consequently it is "dirt cheap." We never saw so many miles of unbroken forest, such an extent of uninhabited country before. And this seems so singular, as the land, at least the greater portion of it, is very fertile. The fertility is better understood when one remembers a few facts connected with

### THE GEOLOGY OF THE STATE.

Ages ago, probably before the French settlement there, a large portion of Arkansas was the bottom of an ocean, the same that we now call the Atlantic.

The city of Little Rock is built on a rise of ground, on the right bank of the Arkansas river, which ages ago was a low mud island near the ocean shore; and Big Rock, a very high bluff on the left bank of the river, about two miles northwest of Little Rock, was a prominent headland on the then easterly shore of that ocean. At that time the Red, Arkansas, White, Mississippi and Ohio rivers emptied into this ocean by mouths hundreds of miles apart. During the lapse of centuries, while the waters of the ocean were receding, and the bottom of it was gradually rising, these rivers were depositing their accumulations of alluvium within a certain range from their mouths, much, we presume, as the Mississippi is now doing in the Gulf of Mexico. Gradually the land was thus made, until finally, by a rapid double process of sinking of the waters and rising of the ocean bottom, the land came above water level and became dry ground. Thus it is that the soil of a good half of Arkansas is what geologists call "fluvio-marine," that is, soil made by the deposit of sediment from river and ocean. Hence the remarkable fertility of the soil.

#### THE TIMBER

which grows on this former ocean bottom is not, on an average, what a Michigan man would call very heavy. There are certainly some sections where the pine, walnut, oak and cypress are very heavy—enormous in size—but the average of the timber is not heavy. Somebody is going to make money out of the timber of Arkansas. We never saw such oak and walnut anywhere else. The varieties of timber are black, white and post oak, cottonwood, pecan, bois d'arc, ash, hickory, elm, yellow pine, sweet gum and cypress. Cypress is almost indestructible by ordinary agencies, and combines the working and lasting qualities of pine and cedar. It is to the South what white pine is to the North. Almost all the kinds of timber named are in demand at New Orleans, whence it is shipped as ballast. Sweet gum, from its peculiar qualities, will soon be in demand for gun-stocks. The timber of any particular section will often pay for clearing the land from which it is cut. The cost of clearing runs from \$5 to \$10 per acre, counting the timber as nothing. Cleared land readily rents for from \$4 to \$10 per acre, according to location.

#### THE RAILWAYS

built and building are numerous, and are doing a splendid work for the development of the country. Villages and towns are rapidly springing up along their lines, all of which present the appearances peculiar to new places in a new country, but give evident signs of "snap" and thrift. Some of them, located where the railroads intersect rivers, possess the double advantage of water and rail transportation.

#### THE RIVERS

of this State are remarkable as affording more than 3,000 miles of internal navigation. Fifty of the 73 counties of the State are watered by navigable streams. Here is the list: Mississippi, St. Francis, White, Black, Arkansas, Ouachita, Red, Saline, and Bayou Bartholomew.

## THE CLIMATE,

on the whole, is very fine—just what you might expect between the 33d and 36th parallels. In the eastern and southeastern part of the State it is rather “mixed” with malaria, but as you go west and northwest it becomes one of the finest on the continent. With the exception of two months in the summer, one could not wish for a more desirable climate; and in summer, when the days are the hottest, the evenings and nights are delightfully cool. So, take it all in all, one can scarce find a more desirable country to live in so far as climate goes.

## THE MOUNTAINS

are found in the northwest part of the State. Draw a line from the southwest to the northeast corner of the State, and you mark the boundary between the former ocean bottom and the older part of the country—between the plain and mountain lands—between the rich agricultural and the

## RICH MINERAL REGIONS.

Few States combine such varied and wonderful resources. The minerals of Arkansas alone will eventually attract a large immigration, and lead to the investment of a great amount of capital. Zinc, copper, manganese, salt, lead, iron, coal and gypsum abound. The different clays, as fire, pipe and potter's clay, and kaolin, are of the best quality and plentiful.

Between the State-line and Little Rock we passed

## NUMEROUS RAILROAD STATIONS,

twenty in all, an average of one to every eight miles. Not bad, is it, for a railroad only completed three years ago? It speaks well for the accommodating spirit of the railroad officials, and for the business of the road. All these stations gave evident signs of prosperity and enterprise. The population of them ranged from 300 up to 2,000. In passing we must mention one in particular, called

## JUDSONIA,

named after a Baptist missionary, Judson. It is a thriving Baptist colony, with 60 well educated and well-to-do Indiana and Illinois families, and the location of “Judson University,” with a large and very efficient staff of Professors, and a class of 500 students. It is well endowed by private donation of lands, is in affiliation with Northern Universities, and will receive a share of the Peabody fund next year. There are 35,000 white Baptists in Arkansas. About the middle of a lovely autumn afternoon we

## ARRIVED AT LITTLE ROCK.

There was “music by the band,” and immense cheering, and “general hand-shaking” with the “big crowd” which had gathered at the station from the city and country to give us



## A HEARTY SOUTHERN WELCOME.

The generous hosts with whom we were billeted quickly sought us out, and after dinner "toted" us about to see the sights until it was time to put in an appearance at

## THE RECEPTION BANQUET.

This was given by the citizens of Little Rock in honor of "their distinguished guests." Senators, Representatives (of the people and of the press), Judges, Generals, Colonels, lawyers, railway magnates, Ex-Governors, planters, merchants, manufacturers, commissioners of various trusts, and representatives at large of the wealth, learning, culture and enterprise of the whole State, were there—each to contribute his share toward making it a memorable affair. Speech-making seems to be a characteristic of Western men. Everybody seems willing and able to make a speech. Those made at this banquet were above the average of "after-dinner eloquence." Those who made them were much in earnest. They spoke with a purpose—to assure their visitors of a hearty Southern welcome, and of the magnificent advantages which their State offers to all who want happy homes—to disabuse the minds of their Northern brethren with regard to a prevalent idea that immigrants from the North are not welcome in that State, and much more that we have not time to note. Some of the speeches were learned, some were eloquent, some humorous. Sunset Cox ought to have delayed his Harper article on American humor until after he had heard the speeches of Pomeroy of Little Rock, and Prentiss of Topeka, at this banquet. By the time these men got the floor a good many "outsiders" had dropped in, and one of them was overheard saying to his fellows, as they left the building, "You bet, those fellers are right smart talkers. They made me la-a-a-f till I had a big kink in my runnet." There was one feature of this occasion which exactly resembled the way such things are done in the North—"no colored persons admitted." By way of comment on this—never mind, we'll let it go. We shall never forget that banquet—we'll back it against any other banquet that was ever given in the Mississippi valley for speech-making eloquence, humor, pathos and bathos, welcome, good-fellowship, Scuppernong and fun. We don't exaggerate at all when we say it laid out all the banquets ever given in that State, besides some other men. It will never be successfully reported, because, after such a dinner, the average reporter is so full he can't report worth a cent.

In company with a large party of excursionists we did

## LITTLE ROCK.

This is a beautiful city (the only one in the State) occupying an excellent site, 50 feet above the river. The streets are wide, half named and half numbered, like Philadelphia, and run at right angles to and end parallel with the river. The dwellings are all constructed with a view to comfort in hot weather—most of them have the chimneys outside of the building; all of them have spacious

verandas, halls and rooms. Land is not so much per foot in that city as in Detroit, and people "spread themselves" both in size of lots and houses. Once in a while you see a brick-house with a mansard slate roof, Northern fashion, but such dwellings don't seem to be "indigenous to the soil." The people display great taste in the cultivation of shrubbery and flowers. The State House don't amount to much—looks old and dilapidated—shouldn't wonder if they built a new one soon, in a better place. This is right down on the river bank. The new one ought to occupy a more commanding position.

When they quit fighting, 3,000, big folks and little, were all Little Rock could muster. Now they turn out "twenty thousand strong," half of them colored. (Perhaps that is why they're so "strong." This is "no joke"—you needn't print it.) Seventeen thousand is pretty good growth in so few years. They need manufactures now, very much. As it is the great railroad centre of the State, centrally located, healthy, and has many enterprising citizens, it is bound to be a big city. Strangers should visit the State House, the levee, the arsenal, National and Confederate cemeteries, the exposition of the products of Arkansas, at the Chamber of Commerce, the agricultural show at the Fort Smith Railroad land office, the collection of minerals at the Iron Mountain depot, and, at certain seasons, the vineyards and cotton plantations near the city. If they don't learn something, and get a fair idea of Arkansas in general and Little Rock in particular, before they get through with that list, it will be because they lack "capacity." After they get through with Little Rock they must not fail to

#### GO TO HOT SPRINGS.

What! Never heard of Hot Springs! Why, Hot Springs is the prettiest and ugliest, the richest and poorest, the nicest and meanest, the wettest and driest, the hottest and coolest, the best and worst place in Arkansas. They did their best to hide it away beyond the most infernal hills a stage ever went over, in a little valley just on the southeast edge of the Ozarks, but it steamed so it could not be hid. The Indians found it a good while ago, and "white folks" have been going there ever since; something like 3,000 of them stay there. It's an awful place—close to the gates of hell—that's where the water is heated which bursts out through the rocks 50 feet up the mountain side. That water is wonderful—a little cooler than the place it comes from, but not much. It will cook an egg or cure leprosy, that is,

#### THE KIND DR. GROSS THINKS JOB HAD.

(It wasn't kind of the doctor to tell on Job; shouldn't wonder if Job went for him if they ever meet.) There's no mistake about the curing powers of Hot Springs water, any more than there is in its cooking powers. About 150 of us went there together. Barnum's cortege couldn't make "a show" compared with our procession of stages, hacks, buggies, "Arkansaw prairie sailers" and horsemen, as, pounded to a jelly, covered with dust, and racked with rheumatism and neuralgia, besides not feeling well, we wound our way through the single street of this refuge of invalids. But in less than twenty-four hours we

were all "cured" and had "lit out." It was this way. Eight minutes in a hot bath, at somewhere near 100 Fahrenheit, they ain't particular to a degree or two down there; three minutes in a hot vapor bath, some hotter than the first (thought we shouldn't see Detroit any more); 10 minutes wrapped up in blankets, and just running away in streams of perspiration; and all this time drinking one gallon of hot water from the arsenic spring, as hot as it could possibly be swallowed. The whole party were anxious about each other, lest there shouldn't be enough left of any one to get out of the bath.

Sable attendants took advantage of our weakness to nearly "rub us out" with rough towels. Advice to strangers: When you get so bad you *have* to go to Hot Springs, don't let them put you through "the whole course of sprouts" at once. Advice to the sick, gratis: If you have rheumatism, gout, scrofula, paralysis, catarrh, kidney or bladder disease, skin disease, sick headache, sterility, certain forms of womb disease, or—or—the kind of leprosy they say Job had, go to the Hot Springs and you will be cured. Plenty of people have gone there worse than Job was, enough sight, and went home "sound as a dollar." What does the place look like? Oh, just as though some giant, in bygone days, had

#### SPLIT THE MOUNTAINS OPEN

about two rods wide and three miles long, and then picked up some big hotels, some stores, some cheap boarding-houses, some bathing-houses, some good dwellings and some cheap cottages, and threw them, as well as he could, into the bottom of the split. He seemed to think there was room for a creek and a horse railroad, so he threw them in, too. By that time he saw there wouldn't be room for sidewalks, so he left them out. The buildings, being all wooden, were somewhat the worse of the throw. Looking north from the lower end of the valley, one has all the *hot* springs on the right-hand side of the valley, and all the *cold* springs on the left. There are alum, arsenic and iron springs—in all 57—*hot*. Fortunately the United States Government owns the whole place, so the waters are free to all. It doesn't cost much to go there, and one can live there cheaply. It is not a fashionable watering place, but a place where genuine medicinal waters genuinely cure genuine diseases. Thirty thousand people say so every year. In Arkansas, as in most other civilized countries, they are troubled with

#### POLITICS,

and have had 'em bad, too, sometimes; but, like the public health, they are "improving." In that Brooks-Baxter fuss "one was afraid and the other dasen't." Both sides showed wonderful respect for "a corporal's guard" of United States soldiers. The trouble was settled by a quiet suggestion to "whack up and *divide*." At the last election, many Republicans, disgusted with the corruptions of some of their partisans, voted for honest Democrats. The result is a government Democratic in name and patronage, with a Republican policy, and one generally satisfactory to the citizens. Late legislation has been sound and progressive. During the war a troop of cavalry, up among the Ozarks, was

camping for the night, after a hard day's march in a storm of sleet and snow. Standing around a lot of soggy logs, which could only be made to smoke, for a camp-fire, one of the boys spoke up: "Look here, boys! I've enlisted for the war. I can stand this sort of thing for fifteen, twenty-five or forty years, but I want it distinctly understood that this is the last Union I'm going to try to bust."

That's the unanimous sentiment now. Reconstruction is a fixed fact. Remaining differences will be easily settled by legislation. Nobody wants any more fighting. Civil war doesn't usually improve the condition of society; but it brought changes that were beneficial to Arkansas. She has taken "a new departure" in some manners and customs. The traditional "tooth-pick" is a thing of the past, and revolvers don't revolve as they used to. The law against carrying these "carnal weapons" is strictly enforced. Speak your mind; express your opinions freely. Nobody will molest you.

#### PERSON AND PROPERTY ARE SAFE,

quite as much so as in Detroit or any other American city of the same size. In a recent visit we saw very little drunkenness. Big hearts and generous conduct characterize this people. They have no six months of winter to fight, and know nothing about being "close" or "economical." The "latch-string" always hangs out. Like "Ole Virginny," Arkansas "never tires" of entertaining strangers.

#### THE COLORED POPULATION

haven't got used to the situation. Their sympathies are with the Republicans, and their interests very often with the Democrats. They've got a vote, but are not "right sure" how to use it. They are like a child with a razor. Politicians don't always care whether they cut themselves or not. Generally,

#### THEY PAY WELL, AND WORK WELL,

especially for themselves. By disposition they are orderly and quiet. Their Sabbath congregations are large and well dressed. Sunday clothes last them a long time. Builders, furniture men and dry goods men cannot do business among them and live by it. Their houses are not houses—mostly shells. Their clothes, week-days, are shabby. They look "shiftless." See them at work, in their homes, hauling stuff to market, anywhere but in church, and there is a tumble-down look about the whole outfit that disgusts you. Their colored brethren of the North are far ahead of them in snap and appearance. But don't they learn! Astonishing the progress they make in study. Come to schooling, they mean business. Their schools are said to be the best attended in the State. In its

#### DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION

the lion's share falls to one city, several towns and many villages. The farming population is very sparse. Angels' visits could hardly be further apart and fewer than Arkansas farm-houses. We traveled many miles in some of the

finest parts of the State without seeing a soul. Exceptions to the rule occur on Crowley's Ridge and on the Arkansas river bottoms. The colored people number but one-quarter of the entire population, and are congregated mostly in a few rich fertile counties. As might be expected,

#### CHURCHES AND SCHOOL-HOUSES

are not close together. In the "centers" there are enough to meet present wants; in the farming districts they are few. Except in places of good size, the buildings are very poor. There is great room for improvement in this particular. It doesn't pay for any community to build a mean-looking church or school-house. Here are a few items of interest about

#### THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.

The last assessment of property in the State was \$85,000,000; new constitution school-fund tax (two mills on the dollar) yields \$175,000; capitation tax on all males over 21 years, \$110,000 annually. Each school district can also vote five mills on the dollar of its own assessments. The present Legislature asks the United States Government for all "government laws" for school purposes. The State Constitution says "It is obligatory on the Legislature to provide

#### FREE SCHOOLS

for *all* persons in the State between the ages of six and 21 years." There is no discount on that arrangement. There will be no attempt to defraud colored children of their right to schooling. Governor, Legislature, press and people are all determined on "fair play" in this vital matter. The school items were furnished us during

#### AN INTERVIEW WITH GOVERNOR GARLAND.

The State having been much misrepresented in this matter, he was desirous we should be in possession of the facts. The Governor is a gentleman of commanding presence and engaging address. His features indicate great decision, firmness and force of character. His political convictions are decided, and in his willingness "to accept the responsibility" he resembles Andrew Jackson. Yet he is no partisan. He was the choice of the best men of both parties.

#### MANUFACTURES

pay well in this State. They are principally confined to indispensables, such as leather, lumber, meal and flour. The net profit on manufacturing capital in 1860 was 80 per cent. Good enough. The civil war stimulated manufactures. Capital is much needed now, to build cotton mills, oil mills, rolling mills, furniture and wooden-ware factories, woolen factories, smelting works, etc., and to open mines of various kinds, and build narrow-gauge railways. The general

#### HEALTH

of the country is very good. Certain districts are subject to malarial diseases of severe type. Planting the eucalyptus will make these sections healthy. In

almost all the level country they have "chills and fever" (but no worse than Michigan has to-day), and they deserve to have them. People who live on pork, coffee and hot corn-bread one thousand and ninety-five times in a year, as lots of Arkansas folks do, ought to shake. And such pork as they eat! If they get "out o' hog-meat" the rifle is handy, and the hogs are "in the timber." But

#### THEY NEVER SHOOT AN ARKANSAS HOG ENDWAYS.

He is too thin. They always wait till he turns sideways. Too much coffee, whisky, pork, corn-bread, tobacco, and sleeping close to the ground; too little tea, oatmeal, mutton, fruit, bathing, and sleeping in the second-story—that's what's the matter with more than half of the "shakers."

#### ARKANSAS FARMING

is slovenly, generally. If the soil didn't beat the Garden of Eden for fertility they might as well "hang up the shovel and the hoe," and "quit and call it half a day." They hitch a half-sized mule ahead of a "bull-tongue," and scratch the ground an inch and a half or two inches deep—and call that plowing. Manuring they know nothing about. Thousands of acres have produced cotton and corn for forty years past, without a spoonful of manure. "Manure, indeed! it would make the ground too rich." Weeds are everywhere. They beat the farmers. The fencing is oak rail, and is first-class.

#### THE SOIL PRODUCTS

are very valuable and varied, comprising most of the northern and many of the southern crops. Cotton and corn, the very best, are excelled in quantity and quality by no other State; wheat, barley, oats, as good as the best; clover and timothy first-class, two to three crops, annually; Egyptian wheat, Hungarian grass, enormous production; potatoes, yams, magolds, sugar beets, beat all; apples, as fine as can be grown anywhere; plums and cherries, superb; pears, equal to California in size and flavor; peaches, beat the world for size and richness; grapes, yield very good, flavor the finest. If you want a country that produces anything more or better, get a through ticket for Paradise, you needn't go fooling around this world. There is very little first-class

#### LIVE STOCK.

in the State. Parties who introduce it will do the State a service and make money. Better breeds are wanted to make better beef, pork, mutton and wool. There are plenty of asses in the State, but they need more mules. They stand the work better than horses, and cost less to keep. It ought to cost less to raise them at home than to import them.

The State does her best for railroads by making

#### LARGE RAILROAD LAND GRANTS,

and as these are constantly in the market, together with many thousands of acres offered by different real estate agents, the additional inducement of very

cheap land is offered to all who think they can do better by going there. As a rule, it is better to *stick*—but it's nice to have a good place to stick on. Arkansas is rich in possibilities and resources, but poor in men and means to develop them. She needs colonies of workers. Slavery, with its shiftlessness, waste and chronic debt, is “dead gone”—killed in a fight. Nobody is sorry. Peace and prosperity are twins, and were born the same day slavery died. Their home is in Arkansas. “Long may they reign o’er land and main!”

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## FROM THE “PENINSULAR COURIER,” ANN ARBOR.

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R. A. BEAL, EDITOR.

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We returned home on Monday last from a delightful two weeks' trip to St. Louis and the South. Of the many things we saw, and of the many different places we visited, it would require too much space to tell. It is a good thing to leave business occasionally, and go off on a trip. We return feeling refreshed in spirits and recuperated in health, and can engage again in business with a clearer mind, renewed physical vigor, and greater satisfaction.

Leaving Ann Arbor on Monday, the 27th of September, we arrived in Chicago in the evening. We remained but an hour in Chicago, and taking the nine p. m. train of the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Railroad, we were rapidly transported to St. Louis. This road is widely and favorably known, and needs no word from us. It is perfection itself. One feature—the “palace hotel car,” which was attached at Alton—is particularly pleasing, and the meal that is set before the traveler is *par excellence*. Nine o'clock of Tuesday found us in the rival of Chicago. The “village”—as Chicagoans persist in calling St. Louis—is spread over a good deal of ground. The Lindell Hotel, a first-class caravansary, and the largest in the city, was our stopping-place. The day was agreeably spent in riding about the city and surrounding country, and visiting places of interest. The beautiful gardens of Henry Shaw, Esq., who resides three miles from the limits of the city, which we visited, deserve a special notice. Mr. Shaw owns 1,000 acres of land, twenty of which are surrounded by a wall. Inside the wall is one of the most beautiful spots it has been our lot to gaze upon. All the magnificent flowers and rare plants it is possible to procure are here collected. Words are inadequate to describe this magnificent garden. Mr. Shaw was born in Sheffield, England, in 1800. He took up his abode in St. Louis, a poor boy, without a friend. Twenty-five years ago he retired, a successful hardware merchant, and commenced work on this garden. Years of labor, and money lavishly spent, have made it one of the most wonderful places in the world.

Five years since he gave to St. Louis 500 acres of land for a public park, and he has bequeathed to the city, at his death, all his lands, and gives \$25,000 a year to keep the grounds in order. Last winter he was very ill, and feared he would not recover, but was not in the least disturbed. He has built his own mausoleum near his residence, and over his remains after death will stand a huge granite monument. He is now 75 years of age, and looks as though he might enjoy good health for twenty years to come; and who does not wish to see such a public benefactor live to a good old age? As for us, when we took him by the hand, we did it with a feeling of reverence that we seldom feel in the presence of man. His grounds and residence are open to visitors, and forty men are kept constantly employed by him.

The reason of our visiting St. Louis was in part having accepted the invitation of Hon. J. M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, and T. B. Mills & Co., real estate agents, of Little Rock, Arkansas, to make a tour of the State of Arkansas. Nine o'clock Tuesday evening, the 28th of September, our party, consisting of about 100 persons, editors of Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, and Wisconsin, departed from the city in a train made up of three Pullman cars, one passenger coach, smoking and baggage car. The night passed quickly and pleasantly, and the morning found us well rested, and with an appetite to enjoy the excellent breakfast which was set before us at Walnut Ridge, the Company's eating-house. Two o'clock P. M. we arrived at the beautiful city of Little Rock, where we were welcomed by the citizens with music, the firing of cannon, and the waving of hats and handkerchiefs. After the accustomed hand-shaking, we were all provided with quarters at the houses of the leading citizens, as they insisted upon our going home with them, and would not take no for an answer. After dinner, all were driven over the city, and into the fine surrounding country, until it was time to assemble at the banquet which had been prepared for us by the citizens at Concordia Hall. The tables were spread with all the delicacies of the season. A band of 20 pieces, which discoursed excellent music, was present and enlivened the occasion. Toasts and speeches were made and a grand time had until late at night, or rather early in the morning, for it was after one o'clock when the party adjourned to the Pullman sleeping cars, and the morning found us at Malvern, 60 miles from Little Rock. Here we breakfasted and then visited the celebrated Hot Springs, 26 miles distant. Ten miles there was a narrow-gauge railroad, which is being built from Malvern to the Springs, and will be completed by January. The balance of the distance we went in carriages.

A grand sight greeted us on our entrance to the one street on which are located all the hotels and places of business. The street is about two miles long, and on each side are mountains 600 to 800 feet in height. As we rode along we were greeted by the citizens in a most cordial manner. Hats were doffed, handkerchiefs waved, and loud-mouthed cannons spoke. The entire population seemed to be out. Dinner first, and afterward the Hot Springs were visited, 54 in number, all on one side of the mountains, and 400 feet above the place. They are



all within a radius of 10 acres, and each has a different temperature—from lukewarm to boiling. An egg can be boiled hard in four minutes in the latter. All kinds of conjectures are afloat as to the reason why these springs so materially differ in temperature, and why they are alone in the particular spot they are, with pure cold water on all sides. The most ignorant know all about it, while the scientists are puzzled, and are astounded at the wonderful cures that have been and are daily being effected by their curative properties. Invalids come from all parts of the world to try the springs, and we predict that within two years from now, when the railroad is completed so it is easily accessible for invalids, it will be the Baden-Baden of America, and thousands will annually go there to recover their health; and at no distant day a city will spring up on the hills above the springs that will excel, if not eclipse, any city in the South.

To give some idea of the numbers who now go regularly to the Springs, it is enough to say that over 200 horses are on the stage line from Malvern to the Springs. When we consider the great number of sick who cannot endure this ride of 26 miles by stage, and are deterred from going there, it is plain to see that when the railroad is completed, a much greater number will visit them.

A splendid banquet was given us at the largest hotel. Seventy-five ladies graced the occasion by their presence, and music and dancing kept us up till a late hour.

Everything was done that could make our visit pleasant, and we would like to give the names of the hosts of warm friends whom we met at Hot Springs, Little Rock and other places, but refrain, for reasons well known to journalists. We started on our return the next morning to Malvern, where we arrived seven hours after leaving the Springs, and took the cars for Arkadelphia, where we arrived at four o'clock in the afternoon. A more hungry set of persons than we were on our arrival could not be found. All of us had been saving our appetites for the barbecue which the good people of Arkadelphia had prepared for us. The citizens met us at the depot in a body, and, with the Mayor at their head, marched us to a beautiful grove near the depot, where we found a long table loaded down with ox, deer, buffalo, lamb, etc., cooked in true barbecue style. A pleasant time was here spent for an hour. The editor of the Arkadelphia paper, a good-natured, jolly fellow, about 60 years old, said he came to Arkadelphia 18 years ago; had been married 20 years when he went there; had no children, and had given up all hope of ever having any. When he and his wife first came to Arkadelphia they were very homesick, and wished themselves back North, but being too poor to return, were obliged to stay. At the end of the first year he suddenly found himself the father of two children, twins; and there they stand, said he, and he introduced us to two as beautiful young ladies as we saw on the trip. He slapped us on the shoulder and exclaimed: "Now, what do you think of Arkansas?" and said everything else grew and prospered in the same way in that State. Said he: "I wouldn't take all the property in the North for those girls! Tell any of your readers, when you get home, who are situated as I was when at the North, to come here at once if they wish to get rich." •

We all shortly returned to the cars and made a run down the railroad of 10 miles, towards Texas, and visited some cotton-fields, where negroes were picking. The yield was one bale to the acre, worth \$60. At dark we returned to Arkadelphia, where two hours were spent in speech-making, after which all retired to their berths in the cars, feeling satisfied with the day's sight-seeing.

We awakened the next morning in Little Rock. After breakfasting at the Company's eating-house our party divided to take a trip—some to go on the Fort Smith road, and others on the Little Rock and Memphis road. We chose the latter, as we wished to see the fine prairies of Arkansas. We went as far as Forrest City, where we were handsomely entertained by the people. The most of the party visited the large peach-orchards in the vicinity of the place. It was dark before we started to return, and as our train was "wild"—the train, not the passengers—we had to keep out of the way of other trains. Therefore, instead of running back to Little Rock to start out at nine o'clock, as we expected to do, we did not get there till two o'clock the next morning, which made our breakfast five hours later. We were in prime condition to do justice to the meal, which was had at one of the Company's eating-houses, and was as good a one as we had on the trip. At six p. m. all of our party arrived at St. Louis, just five days absent; during which time a special train had been at our disposal, to go where we chose, and we were not permitted to pay for a single meal, or spend a dollar of our money. Messrs. Loughborough and Mills were constantly present, and unwearied in their attentions, to make everything pleasant. Two nobler specimens of men and perfect gentlemen it has not been our fortune to meet.

We cannot, in our limited space, begin to give a description of the vast cotton-fields, the extensive pine forests, and the great mineral wealth of the State. The great trouble with the farmers of this State has been, they have devoted their whole attention to the raising of cotton, to the exclusion of everything else; what is wanted in Arkansas at this time is manufacturing enterprises of all kinds, and a class of farmers who farm it as our Michigan farmers do, that is, "raise a little of everything," so that if one or two things fail they have something else to fall back on. We saw as fine samples of all kinds of grain and fruit as is raised at the North; and the State now has railroad facilities, which she did not have ten years ago, so that any one who goes to Arkansas need not consider himself out of the pale of civilization. Villages not 50 miles from Little Rock have already received 8,000 bales of cotton, for which they paid about  $12\frac{1}{4}$  cents per pound. Any of our readers who desire further information in regard to Arkansas can obtain it by addressing J. M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner, or T. B. Mills & Co., at Little Rock, who will send them pamphlets and answer all questions, and be pleased to do so. Not a single accident happened to mar the pleasure of the entire trip, and not a word of disappointment was heard from any one. We shall always remember with pleasure those five days.

## CHAPTER XI.—MISSOURI.

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FROM THE "ST. LOUIS REPUBLICAN."

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J. A. DACUS, CORRESPONDENT.

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MALVERN, October 1, 1875.

**H**ERE we are. After a ride over a rough mountain road of some 20 odd miles, and six miles over the narrow-gauge railway, the party of press representatives, who were induced by the flattering invitation of Hon. J. M. Loughborough and T. B. Mills to quit for a season their dusty offices away up in the great Northwest, for a run down through the forest-crowned land of Arkansas, have come again to the line of the great southwestern thoroughfare, somewhat wearied, but well pleased with their experience in this new land of agricultural capabilities and natural wonders. While we pause here it may be well to pass somewhat in review the object which the projectors of the excursion had in view, and the evidences of prosperity which have been presented along the entire route traversed. Of course it is needless to say that Hon. J. M. Loughborough, Col. T. B. Mills and Hon. Thomas Essex had made complete arrangements to secure their guests all the comforts to be had while traveling. A train of splendid Pullman palace cars had been provided, and preparations made along the route for feeding the representatives of the press who traveled with them down South into Dixie. Very few of the party had ever set foot upon Arkansas soil before, and of course very few of them had any very accurate conception of what the State is, and no idea of what it may become. They have now passed over some hundreds of miles of road running through perhaps the least inviting portions of the State, and, judging by expressions which I have heard among them, they are fast yielding their preconceived notions of the State and its people, and the men who contribute to the formation of public opinion in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Iowa are persuaded that this large territory possesses all the essential natural conditions to make it one of the greatest among the great sisterhood of States when its vast resources shall have been developed. To disabuse the public mind of the people of the Northwestern States through the medium of those who are the creators of

public sentiment, as regards the character of the soil, climate and productions of the State, and the social habits and intellectual condition of the people, was the main object had in view by Messrs. Loughborough and Mills in getting up the excursion. In this I think they have been eminently successful.

These Northern editors came down to this State and found the people at peace with each other, surrounded by evidences of prosperity equal to that which annually crowns the labors of the husbandman of their own States. They found the garner and storehouses filled with wheat, the fields overflowing with corn, and, what is far more significant and important in exercising an influence on the commerce and finance of the whole country, they saw vast fields white with the richest crop of cotton ever grown in this country. They must have been surprised, too, and many of them have so expressed themselves to me, in relation to the social characteristics of the people. It is a fact, which any one conversant with the people in the sections indicated will readily admit, that, in point of intelligence, the rural population of Arkansas will compare favorably with the inhabitants of large sections of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa and Michigan. And this is one of the things which the editorial party discovered, that is, that the people of Arkansas are not a set of semi-savage boors, but an intelligent, warm-hearted, hospitable people, among whom agreeable social relations might be readily established. And this is no matter of minor consideration to people who seek new homes among strange people. All along the route from St. Louis to Little Rock, from Little Rock to Malvern, and from Malvern to Hot Springs, and so back to Malvern, the party of excursionists have been received and entertained in the warmest and most hospitable manner. The houses of the people of Little Rock were thrown open to them, and men from the North, South, East and West, who have for years made Arkansas their home, met together under a common impulse to show their visitors that the hatchet had been buried, that there is no longer a chasm separating the people of different sections who have established themselves in this growing State.

Indeed, it appears that the old Arkansans have long ago concluded that

“ Work lulls the sad heart’s complaining:  
Through the task and the toil runs the yearning ache  
Yet duty grows dearer for her own grave sake,  
And muscles are stronger for straining.”

And in the tasks of life imposed, they have forgotten to complain, and once more have commenced to build fortunes on more durable foundations than those upon which once they built. They realize that

“ ’Tis well they see the brightest side—  
The direful shadows never—  
And keep the flowers of hope in bloom  
Within their hearts forever.”

And this, looking ahead to the gleam through the storm cloud’s silver lining, is doing much for the State, and will surely do much more. From Poplar Bluff, on the border of Missouri, to Arkadelphia, in the valley of the Ouachita, and beyond, the country smiles in the richest abundance. Everywhere the fields have produced immense crops of corn, wheat, oats, potatoes—in fact, all food-

crops which the people had planted—and the greatest profusion of these staples of life is to be found almost everywhere. But this is not all. The old monarch of our commercial relations and financial status, cotton, has this year surpassed all former years in the bountifulness of production. The writer having spent many years in the cotton-growing belt, is free to say that never before has he seen such cotton-fields as those now to be found spread out all over Arkansas. Not only is the yield per acre assured as above the production of former years, but the quality of the staple is better than usual.

All these things the visitors saw for themselves, and will go home impressed with the conviction that Arkansas would be a great State if there were only men enough to till more fields such as they saw. There are the vast forests, waiting to be felled, the water-courses to be controlled to drive machinery, and only are needed now the intelligent minds to direct and the strong muscles of men to execute the mighty work of subduing this comparatively wilderness State, and rendering it a garden of beauty. Of 52,000,000 acres of land only 17,000,000 acres have been sold, and of the amount sold a comparatively small proportion has been subdued. Here are the lands, and here the climate is mild and genial as in Italy; but the people are wanting. Arkansas needs more population—men with money and brains and brawn—to clear away the wilderness and make this a great and prosperous State.

The Hot Springs are the wonders of the State, and indeed of the whole country. Very few of the excursionists had seen these thermal fountains before, and of course the difficulties of the journey to that famous resort counted as nothing before the desire to see the wonders of that famous mountain gorge. The editorial party went, and in right royal style too. Just think of a sparsely settled country, with only one or two villages and some farms in the valleys, furnishing, on call, transportation for 150 persons. Yet that is what the good citizens of Hot Springs did, and only a part of what they did at that. Wagons, stages, carriages, rockaways and ambulances, an inharmonious collection, to be sure, but more than sufficient to carry every member of the party, awaited at the present terminus of Joe Reynolds' narrow-gauge railway, some 10 miles from this place, until the pencil-drivers appeared. The procession over the hills and valleys toward Hot Springs was a most extraordinary spectacle, the like of which had never been witnessed before, and may never be seen again. In due time the party arrived at the entrance to the gorge in which the village is situated, escorted by a numerous cavalcade of citizens. This place has been so often described in your columns that it is unnecessary to offer a further description. The town was alive that night. Everybody was out to meet and greet the Northern pilgrims. The hospitality of the citizens must have been very heavily taxed, but everything seemed to flow free as the water which flows from the mountains down the channel of the Golpha.

There one day will be a city, not large, perhaps, as to population, but renowned everywhere as the Baden-Baden of America. It must be so. In a few weeks the iron horse will thunder up the valley, drawing after him long trains of cars with easy chairs and cushioned seats, over a smooth trackway of

iron, and in these the wealthy sufferers from all parts of the world will come in swarms in search of relief.

And here, too, at Malvern, there will sometime in the future spring up a flourishing little city, with a busy, bustling population, who will reap profits from the constant stream of humanity pouring through it, and the immense amount of the goods which must be transferred. And even from Malvern some of the excursionists will carry away some pleasant memories of the kind words spoken, some fancy of dark eyes glancing and sweet voices passing out on the balmy morning air.

Down through Arkansas is not what people once deemed it—a journey of peril and hardships among a people rude and dangerous. Those days, if such days there were, have passed away forever. Modern travelers will have brighter memories of this sunny land.

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### FROM THE "ST. LOUIS COMMERCIAL GAZETTE."

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P. H. THOMAS, CORRESPONDENT.

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The excursion into Arkansas, of the gentlemen of the press of the Western States, left, as per programme, on the 28th of September, and returned to St. Louis on the night of the 3d of October. The round trip was a success in every particular, and Col. Loughborough, Land Commissioner of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railway, and Col. Mills, of the *Spirit of Arkansas*, are to be congratulated upon the fact that everything they planned was carried out so satisfactorily to all. The editors of papers from this city and State, and from the great States of Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Iowa, Ohio, Wisconsin, etc., have discovered that the State of Arkansas is capable of being made one of the foremost in the whole confederation of commonwealths. The work of developing its resources is going on slowly and gradually, and, as the gentlemen who planned the excursion shrewdly perceived, all that is needed is immigration and Northern brawn and muscle to make Arkansas take its proper position among its sister States.

It is not necessary to speak at length of the trip from St. Louis to the City of Roses, as Little Rock is fancifully called. It is sufficient to say that the train was a special, composed of Pullman sleepers, and that nothing of interest occurred between the two cities. In the party were journalists from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Iowa, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Missouri and California, their number being about one hundred. Dailies, weeklies, monthlies, specie, inflation, political, commercial, literary, and, in fact, all varieties of

publications, were represented, and, as will be seen further along, the general and unanimous sentiment of the excursionists was that Arkansas is one of the most inviting of our States for agriculture, mining and manufacturing pursuits.

At Little Rock the editors were received in elegant style by the citizens; episodes of the meeting being a banquet, speeches and interchanges of sociability and visits to the surrounding country to inspect the products of the soil.

Cotton-fields, white as snow, with the pickers hard at work, were viewed, and the wonderful fertility of the soil for vegetables, grain and the fleecy staple was shown. On the eminences about the beautiful Arkansas capital, the grape is grown successfully, and in the lowlands gardening is a source of profit. This latter industry is as yet in its infancy, and there are hundreds of acres that but wait the skilled hands of the gardener and small farmer, with moderate means, to supply St. Louis and other Western and Northern markets with melons, berries and "garden sass," several weeks earlier than we can produce these articles of consumption. A noticeable lack of manufactures in Little Rock, where water is abundant, was commented upon, and this was deemed the more strange, as afterward coal in abundance was discovered to be present on the road (not yet completed) to Fort Smith.

The visitors left Little Rock Thursday morning to visit the celebrated Hot Springs. At Malvern another reception was had. It is at this point that the narrow-gauge railway being built by Diamond Joe Reynolds, of Chicago, begins. The rails are laid for some six miles west of Malvern, and the party was carried this distance on the diminutive cars of the road. At the terminus coaches, wagons, hacks, etc.; were found waiting, the generous people of Hot Springs having arranged for the transportation of the guests. It must be confessed that the trip was not a pleasant one, the journey being made over mountains and lesser eminences, with an occasional dash through more level and fertile country. Pine abounded on the hills, and harder timber in the gorges and valleys. Corn showed a fine growth, and it was observed that cotton, tobacco and wheat were raised successfully on the hill-sides. The grape is also cultivated, but not generally. The truth is, and this remark is based upon the observations and experiences of the entire trip, the State needs to be developed. The resources it has; immigration it needs; and there is little doubt that when the editors of the Northwest speak, as they will, as to what they saw in the much-abused State, a tide of immigration will set in that will make Arkansas take high rank in the sisterhood of States. In this connection it may not be inapropos to introduce some resolutions which were unanimously adopted at Little Rock prior to the homeward return of the excursionists.

[The resolutions are printed on page 55.]

At Hot Springs a grand reception was accorded the excursionists, and the hospitable people of the wonderful little village vied with each other in entertaining their guests. The thermal springs, which make the valley what it is, and without which the town would not exist, are situated on the west side of a bold mountain, which is opposite as rocky and rugged a range. In the valley between the two the straggling street is skirted thickly on either side with

houses of all conceivable designs. Hotels and boarding-houses are in abundance, and physicians also do congregate. The waters of the numerous hot springs cure numerous ills, and it is not too much to say that when the narrow-gauge railroad, now building, is finished, Hot Springs will be the Siloam of the globe, as it now is the Arkansas Bethesda. Agriculturally considered, the county, of which the town is the capital, does not amount to much. However, a few miles below the village, on the Ouachita river, a beautiful and picturesque stream, which would gladden the heart of an artist to sketch, one of the resident physicians is cultivating with profit, for table use and for wine, over 100 varieties of tame and wild grapes. Fruit of all kinds is brought into market in profusion, and several varieties, owing to the genial climate, are in season several months.

The editorial sight-seers, after banqueting, dancing, inspecting the thermal fountains and speechifying, left Hot Springs Friday morning, and after the usual rough stage ride to Malvern, mitigated *en route* by a six-mile spin on the narrow-gauge proceeded southward on the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad as far as Arkadelphia, the county seat of Clark, and a town about 40 years old. Here a barbecued dinner was provided the quill-drivers, and a reception was had. The ladies graced the scene with their presence, as indeed was the case at all points stopped at, and a cordial interchange of good-will was indulged in. The town is one of the important shipping points for cotton, and the country surrounding is fertile and thickly settled. A run down the railroad was made to a plantation, where the curious editors "interviewed" the patch and the pickers, and carried off stalks and bolls of the fleecy monarch. Corn grows well also on cotton-producing soil, and it was observed that this grain was cultivated to a great extent. The planters seem to have become convinced that the one-crop system is short-sighted, and after much lecturing by the State and outside press, have started to raising their own "hog and hominy."

Leaving the cotton-fields and Arkadelphia and Malvern, the party returned to Little Rock, and, on Saturday morning, early, divided, about one-half going up on the Fort Smith Railroad to inspect the coal mines, and the remainder taking a ride toward Memphis to gaze upon the prairies and the thriving towns *en route*. The entire day and part of the night were consumed by both excursions. The party which took to the prairies was delighted with what they saw, and reported extraordinary capabilities for hay, corn, etc., with land very cheap and highly productive, and thousands of acres awaiting the advent of skilled and industrious farmers. The other delegation investigated the Spadra and Ouita coal mines, and found both varieties to be of value and in abundance, and being worked by enterprising companies, which already reap a reward for their venture. At several points along the road wonderful vegetables and farm products were exhibited by the enthusiastic residents of the country, and it was evident that Arkansas can, without much labor, be made to laugh with a harvest that older States might well be proud of.

The return to St. Louis was made, for the most part, during daylight of Sunday, and an excellent opportunity was afforded to note the heavy timber,



pine forests and clear streams of Northeast Arkansas. Lively towns, with marks of prosperity, were noticeable at intervals, and the pleasure of the ride was heightened by the beautiful autumnal foliage and the bracing air of the bright October day. Hills and mountains were plunged through and valleys and water-courses crossed by the brave iron horse. Gad's Hill, in Missouri, was hurried by, and then at Arcadia a temporary halt was made about noon for refreshments. Here more speeches were indulged in, and the chairman of the excursion, Hon. Jacob Stotler, of Emporia, Kansas, was presented, on behalf of the citizens of Hope, Arkansas, a banner of cotton cloth of Hope manufacture. The Iron Mountain was seen, the furnaces at Carondelet, the yellow fields of corn between the two, and then in the dusk of Sabbath eve the excursionists reached the Future Great City, where a separation for home was made by all.

To sum up: The benefits to arise from the excursion are almost incalculable, for, as has been indicated, each member of the party came off the trip thoroughly impressed, from actual observation and from conversation, with the valuable resources of our sister State, and will write up his experience in an intelligent manner. Arkansas only needs development, and immigration will accomplish this. Let her have the former in plenty, and plenty will she have.

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## FROM THE "MIDLAND FARMER," ST. LOUIS.

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J. F. GUTWITS, CORRESPONDENT.

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A party of journalists, about four score in number, left St. Louis on the evening of September 28th for a flying trip through the State of Arkansas. The excursion was planned by Hon. J. M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, and Col. T. B. Mills, of Little Rock, head of the leading real estate firm in the State. Col. Loughborough accompanied the excursion party throughout their five days' wanderings, and brought them safely back to St. Louis, filled with gratitude for his good offices upon every and all occasions. Col. Mills joined the party just before reaching Little Rock, and, seconded by Hon. Logan H. Roots, a leading banker of Little Rock, did the honors of the city and State in a truly royal manner.

### A MENAGERIE OF EDITORS LUXURIOUSLY CAGED.

The Iron Mountain Railway Company had provided a train of elegant Pullman palace coaches for their guests, and promptly at 9 p. m. the quill-drivers put in their appearance, and each took possession of the berth assigned him,

which was to be his undisputed "local habitation" during the five days' trip. Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio furnished the great bulk of the party, with a few representatives from localities more remote. There were editors and reporters of all kinds and sizes—fat and lean, long and short, handsome and homely, witty and stupid—as motley a collection of the *genus homo* as is often gathered together.

Moark is the first station reached in Arkansas, and from here to Little Rock the railroad runs nearly "as straight as the crow flies." At Walnut Ridge, in Lawrence county, a halt was made for breakfast at the company's eating-house, and a good breakfast it was. Rushing past several embryo villages, another halt was made at

#### JUDSONIA,

in White county, 53 miles from Little Rock. At this place is located a Baptist educational institution, known as "Judson University," and from the Rev. Benjamin Thomas, President of the University, we learned that the institution was quite liberally endowed, and that some 500 students had been promised for the ensuing term. The university buildings are not within sight of the railroad, and therefore we did not have an opportunity to visit them.

#### ARRIVED AT LITTLE ROCK,

according to arrangements previously made, the excursionists were divided up in sections of twos and threes, and taken in charge by the citizens to whom they had been severally assigned. This quartering of four-score hungry newspaper men upon the private hospitality of the citizens was probably due to the fact that the capital city is somewhat deficient in hotel accommodations, especially as one of her largest public houses was destroyed by fire a short time previous to our visit. However, the arrangement proved a most fortunate one for the excursionists, as it brought them in closer social contact with their hosts, and enabled them to gain much useful information regarding the object of their visit. Whether the good wives of the city, who were called upon to furnish the substantial elements of the entertainment, were as greatly pleased, the writer would hesitate to express an opinion. It was the good fortune of your correspondent, in this somewhat hap-hazard distribution of guests, to fall to the lot of M. W. Benjamin, Esq., a prominent attorney of Little Rock, and to him and his estimable wife he feels greatly indebted for their generous hospitality. In the evening a grand banquet was given at Concordia Hall, which was participated in by the leading residents of the city. After the tables were cleared of the bounteous repast provided, the Hon. J. M. Loughborough, chairman, called the assemblage to order, and Gen. R. C. Newton made a pertinent address of welcome. Toasts followed in order, the replies to which called to their feet Col. Mills, Judges Rose, Yonley and Wilshire, Chief Justice English, Gens. Clayton, Pomeroy and Bishop, and a host of others. The recent difficulties in the State were freely spoken of, and we were assured by gentlemen of both factions, and who had personally participated in the troubles, that they had "shaken hands over

the bloody chasm'' and agreed to let by-gones be by-gones. The administration of Governor Garland was said to be satisfactory, on the whole, to all the people of the State, and they seem to have come to the sensible conclusion that the only safe way to revolutionize their government is through the peaceful agency of the ballot-box. They spoke warmly in praise of the natural resources of their State, together with its salubrious climate, and expressed their anxiety to secure the immigration of the Northern farmer, mechanic and capitalist, who they felt certain would infuse new energy into the older inhabitants, and rapidly carry the State forward to her legitimate position among her sister States.

Before taking leave of the hospitable citizens of Little Rock, we should state that the city has now a population of about 20,000; that it has grown rapidly in population and wealth since the war, and that a large proportion of its business men are Northern men. It has a respectable number of handsome business houses, and everything about the city betokens a fair measure of enterprise and thrift. The city is handsomely located on the high bluff of the Arkansas river, and contains a large number of elegant private residences. Its many fine gardens and grounds, blooming with a wonderful profusion of flowers, have given it the not inappropriate designation of the "City of Roses." We should not neglect in this connection to speak of the free reading-room established by Messrs. T. B. Mills & Co., where are kept on file some hundreds of papers of this and adjoining States, to which the public have free access. Messrs. Mills & Co. are themselves publishers of the *Spirit of Arkansas*, a paper devoted to the dissemination of general intelligence regarding the growth and prosperity of the State.

A night run down the road to Malvern where breakfast awaited us, and we took passage on a train of "flat" cars on the new narrow-gauge railroad for the present terminus of the road, where we connected with coaches for Hot Springs. The ride over this "baby" railroad, through the brisk morning air, and snuffing up the odorous scents of the forest which rise on all sides, was one of the most enjoyable features of the whole trip. Work on the road is being pushed vigorously, and before the new year the thousands of invalids and tourists who journey to the Springs can make the trip in comfortable railway coaches, instead of the slow and lumbering vehicles which have heretofore made the journey a thing to be dreaded and abhorred.

#### THE HOT SPRINGS.

We arrived here soon after mid-day, hot, dusty and tired. A refreshing bath, followed by a good dinner, served to put the whole party in good humor, and the afternoon was spent in visiting the wonderful natural curiosities which abound in the vicinity, chief among which are the springs from which the town derives its name. Of the medicinal virtues of the waters we have heard such marvelous stories that we do not like to tell them, even at second-hand. Suffice it to say that, for a large class of chronic ailments, which seem to resist all ordinary medical treatment, they are claimed to be an infallible specific. The average number of invalids from abroad who are under treatment at the Springs

is said to range from 1,500 to 2,500, and with the increased facilities of access afforded by the railroad, it is evident that this number will be greatly increased in the future. It requires no great stretch of the imagination, in fact, to prognosticate that before many years these springs will have become the most popular sanitary resort upon the continent. A grand ball at the Arlington House, at which the beauty and fashion of the town shone in their most radiant attire, closed the events of the day.

Off again next morning on our return to Malvern. It had been originally projected that we should continue our journey through the State to Texarkana, but a delay on the road from the Springs rendered it unadvisable to do so, and so after running down to the handsome town of Arkadelphia, and a few miles below, where the excursionists were given an opportunity to visit a cotton-field and see the pickers at work, we again turned our faces northward. At Little Rock on the next day the party separated—one portion going out over the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad, and the other over the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad. Both parties returned the same night, and we immediately started for St. Louis, only stopping off *en route* at the beautiful mountain retreat of Arcadia, in Missouri, for dinner.

This much descriptive of the excursion proper, and as a prelude to the more substantial facts regarding the resources and capabilities of the State through which we so hastily traveled, and which I shall endeavor to present as concisely as possible.

#### A TERRA INCOGNITA.

That Arkansas is to a great majority of the people of the other States a country literally unknown is shown from the fact that of the more than four-score generally well-travelled men who made up the excursion party, probably less than a half-dozen of them had ever before set foot upon its soil; and a categorical questioning of the majority as to their acquired knowledge of the State would have drawn from them a confession that the 'soul-stirring melody of the "Arkansas Traveler" (a portrait of the author of which, Col. "Sandy" Faulkner, adorned the banquet-room at Little Rock) was about the sum total of their knowledge, up to the time of the comparatively recent but somewhat unfavorable celebrity acquired by the State on account of the "Brooks-Baxter" difficulties. The construction of the great Iron Mountain Railroad, which bisects the State from its northeast to its southwest extremity, has done very much to open up the resources of the country, but still the fact remains, that this State, occupying a commanding position upon the great Mississippi, with the Arkansas and several other large but less important tributaries flowing through nearly its entire breadth, with a genial climate, fertile bottom-lands, forests of valuable timber, and inexhaustible fields of coal and other minerals, has so far failed to secure its proportional share of that healthy immigration which has enabled younger States, with probably no better natural advantages, to become rich and prosperous commonwealths. Well, there are many patent reasons why this has been so—we can see no reason why it should be so in the

future. The old regime of the State doubtless run things according to their way of thinking; it is useless to criticise them or their ways now. We are assured that a new order of things is begun; that the men now taking the lead in affairs—business, political and social—are earnest in their endeavors to incite a new and healthy immigration, and to this end are intelligently laboring to make known to the world at large the wonderful natural resources of their State.

#### THE SOIL AND PRODUCTS.

The soil is of great variety, as is natural in a country so greatly diversified in its natural features. The bottom-lands of the Arkansas, White, Little Red, and Ouachita rivers, of which we had opportunity to make personal inspection, have every indication of being rich and productive, and capable of producing uniformly good crops of cotton and corn, which we saw in several instances growing side by side.

A bale of cotton and 30 to 60 bushels of corn to the acre we should judge to be what can be safely calculated upon, although this yield is doubtless exceeded considerably in many individual instances. Grass and vegetables also do well on these low lands. The timber consists principally of the different varieties of oak, hickory, sweet gum, elm, maple, ash, and white and black walnut. In addition to the streams mentioned, there are the Red, the Saline, the St. Francis, the Black, the Little Missouri, the Moro, and the Bayou Bartholomew, and many minor streams, besides the great Mississippi, which forms the entire eastern boundary of the State, the valleys of all of which are said to be highly productive. The higher lands are of various soils, much of which is said to be especially adapted for fruits, wheat, oats, rye, barley, tobacco, and also corn and cotton, and for grazing purposes. For fruits, and especially grapes, which are grown in nearly every known variety, the soil and climate seem to be especially well adapted. Specimens of apples, peaches, pears and plums of extraordinary size and of delicious flavor also attest that Arkansas is emphatically a fruit-growing State. We saw at Little Rock a collection of the various products of the State, embracing specimens of cotton, tobacco, the various cereals, fruit, varieties of wood, coal, etc., which was indeed a revelation to those of the party who had formed their opinion of the State upon the "Arkansas Traveler" basis, as before mentioned. (A portion of the collection above mentioned we subsequently saw upon exhibition at the St. Louis Fair, where it attracted deserved attention.) In the matter of fine cabinet woods the State is especially prolific, and the almost total exhaustion of this class of timber from the Northern and Eastern States will doubtless soon bring into market this valuable product.

The principal coal and iron mines now in operation are along the Arkansas river, which runs for 150 miles through a coal formation, varying in thickness from four to nine feet. The Ouita mines are located in Pope county, 170 miles west of Little Rock, on the Fort Smith Railroad; the Spadra mines are some 30 miles further west upon the same road, and also immediately upon the Arkansas river. The coal from these mines is of an excellent quality of semi-anthracite, and

being almost entirely free from the offensive smell of bituminous coal, it finds a ready market wherever introduced. An analysis of this coal gives 80.46 per cent. of fixed carbon, while Pennsylvania anthracite gives only 84 per cent., and the best bituminous coal gives only 57.66 per cent. There are known to be large deposits of valuable iron and other ores in various parts of the State, but up to the present time, we believe, no systematic effort has been made to test their productiveness or value.

#### THE CLIMATE.

Perhaps the greatest inducement to emigration from the Northern and Eastern States is the rigor of the climate, which is almost invariably fatal in its effects, sooner or later, upon persons at all subject to pulmonary affections. To this class of immigrants Arkansas holds out especial inducements, as being comparatively free from those sudden changes of temperature so frequent in the North, while at the same time the climate is not so debilitating in its effects as that of the more Southern States. At Little Rock—nearly the geographical center of the State—the mean temperature for December, January and February is given at 43.3 degrees, and for June, July and August at 79.1 degrees. We have not the data showing the extremes of heat and cold, but it is claimed that the thermometer very rarely rises above 90 or 95 degrees, or sinks to less than 10 degrees. There is but little snow and ice, and it is claimed that plowing may be done every month in the year. It is stated that the growing vegetable season embraces nine months in the year, and that corn, potatoes, peas and beans can be planted and brought to maturity after wheat and oats have been taken from the same land.

#### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Of course I do not intend in an article of this length, and based upon the cursory observations made in a flying trip through the State, to do more than record my observations, and the impressions, necessarily somewhat immature, resulting therefrom. Doubtless our Arkansas friends “put their best foot foremost,” so to say, on the occasion of our visit, and if they had any skeletons in their family closets they didn’t bring them out for our inspection. They have got land to sell—enough to furnish homes for hundreds of thousands of hoped-for immigrants—and if what I have written shall prove an inducement to any person to visit the State and judge for himself whether or not it is a good place in which to locate, I shall be pleased with the result.

## FROM "MINES, METALS AND ARTS," ST. LOUIS.

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 JOSEPH E. WARE, EDITOR.
 

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The recent editorial excursion to the South, inaugurated by the Land Department of the Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad Company, which left St. Louis September 28th, was gotten up with a breadth and liberality, careful forethought and developed detail unexampled in the life career of the best traveled newspaper man on that enjoyable occasion. The design of the Land Department was to place the editors and representatives of the Northwestern press in a position from whence to observe for themselves the actual daily condition in the State of Arkansas, its future prospects, educational needs, the desirability of its prairie and timber lands, climate, soil, health conditions, purity of water, good morals, the superabundance of its mineral wealth, and the unusual desirableness of the country for the metallurgist, the manufacturer, agricultural, horticultural, or for pastoral pursuits, together with its remarkable transportation facilities, either by rail or water.

The journals represented were: From Ohio 9, Indiana 18, Illinois 22, Missouri 13, Kansas 5, Michigan 2, Wisconsin 2, Iowa 2, Pennsylvania, California and England 1 each—82 journals in all from abroad, and ably represented by their own editors, or other talented gentlemen.

## RAILROADS ENCOURAGE DENSE POPULATION.

There are instances of railroad constructions far ahead of the requirements of any accessible population. Again, railroads have been constructed with excellent starting and terminating points, but having lengthy stretches of uninhabited country between that cannot contribute, for years after the opening of the road, even the value of the fuel used on the passing trains. It is not as bad as the latter instance with the Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad. It starts well and ends well. Still there is the anomaly of a railroad running for 300 miles through a fruitful country that is nearly as much in the center of population as Missouri, Iowa or Tennessee, and having a moderate population; but one more largely ignorant of the blessings and advantages of having its "lines fallen in pleasant places" cannot well be conceived of.

It is by comparing the little progress of the hundreds with the substantial growth in affluence of the enterprising few, that the observer can perceive that but one in ten is obtaining from the soil, the climate, and the circumstances of latitude, health, and good water, the remunerative results so amply guaranteed to diligence, skill, and moderate means.

It is not our intention to offer such reflections as the above to the surfeiting, but to lightly touch the general subject that a hundred pens have already ably expatiated upon, and take up a part of the scene that was measurably hidden from too many of our excursionists. We therefore ask to be indulged while taking

#### A GEOLOGICAL VIEW,

premising that the entire expanse over which our train will move from Poplar Bluff to Little Rock, many an age back, during the tertiary times, was swept and scoured by the winds and waves of that Atlantic Ocean that we now look for beyond Florida. The deep estuary, down which we ran to Moark, was once an indentation in the ancient coast-line that can so distinctly be followed southwesterly from Cape Girardeau on the west side of the Mississippi; a coast that we skirt very closely when we run under the limestone spurs of the Salado hills. Only at Little Rock, after running 180 miles, does the train climb up on this shore. The beautiful bridge at that place lands us on a tilted slate reef, the distorted argillaceous mass upon which Little Rock stands having formerly been a mere outlying mud-bar that filled in between Big Rock and the Fourche range, then a ledge or fork-shaped island, composed of gray granite, porphyry, greenstone, feldspathic, quartz and syenite. The direction of the railroad southward runs diagonally across this headland, or island, bringing the train in a distance of 60 miles back again to the old sea level, which it will not leave again until the train at some future day will cross the Rio Grande.

It is seldom realized by travelers on this road; and scores of others in the South and Southwest, that the time of the emergence of this vastly extensive region is not very remote; two causes having operated to accelerate the condition now existing—subsidence and emergence—either of which would have effected the same result, but during a longer period of time; both combined therefore hastened the operation.

The reader who has traveled and observed will have no difficulty in mentally following the coast line of the tertiary period, at which time every river now emptying into the Mississippi had its own proper point of *embouchure*; the Ohio and Mississippi entering the ocean 200 miles apart; the White river entering at Sulphur Rock, the Arkansas at Big Rock, and the Red River above the mouth of Sulphur Fork.

The territory east and west of the Mississippi that thus has risen from the sea, now comprises much of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, the eastern portions of Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina; two-thirds of Alabama, all of Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi, one-half of Arkansas and Texas; much of Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois and Missouri, all of Tamaulipas, and thence west of Vera Cruz, the shore line where the Rio Grande entered the ocean, being northwest of Camargo.

Our editorial comrades not having had in most instances the opportunity to travel over large expanses of fluvio-marine territory, were naturally surprised at the wonderful fertility of the soil, its happy relations to an almost peerless climate and a fair average of health.



## BANQUETED.

At Little Rock there was dining, sight-seeing, rambling, high-toned banquetry and toasting, with brilliant response and broad mirth, everything being done with a lavishness of spontaneous hospitality that is sometimes prodigal in the South—due, it is thought by some, to the circumstances that in climates where human life is but lightly strained in exertions to gain a sufficiency of food and other physical enjoyments, the grossness of selfishness is not largely developed as it is in the natures of nearly all people that have to conquer a living amid fierce, long winters, ungenial springs, short monthed summers and quickly attendant autumns, with premature frosts, and latterly the too often famine-breeding drouth.

“Easy come, easy go” is characteristic of people that are but slightly disturbed at the loss of an early crop, when the climate permits a second one being made, and where two crops can generally be made the certainty is that at least one will be good; nor is there a fearfully long winter, with its inexorable demand for fuel for life-heat, and a six months’ supply of stock-food, that often is worth as much as the stock is when it is wintered.

## A CONTEST WITH NATURE.

Nor are the above the only evils that a genial climate exempts people from. Worse than all is the frightful prevalence of remediless consumption in Northern climes, where the bloom of life, intellect and cultivation, of rich and poor, are in the throng that are doomed to linger in hectic deceitfulness, to go down at last as spectral offerings to a malignant uncongeniality of clime and life.

All the foregoing, and more too, entered into our reflections as we compared hundreds of the people of Arkansas, who never were in a hurry in their lives to do their year’s work, and yet had fair possessions, and much out of which to create comforts, without the anxious, apprehensive and desperate energy of so many that we wot of in the Northwest, of which we had an early experience.

## MOST THINGS MUST END.

The festivities at Little Rock closed with the summons to repair to the train *en route* for Hot Springs via the new town of Malvern. Awaking at daylight, the company, which had largely gained bulk by accretion from the Rock, discovered itself snugly switched, to be followed, however, very soon after, by a very palliating breakfast given by the good people of Malvern. Joe Reynolds’ device was hailed as a blessed boon to such of the throng on their way to the Springs as had a previous knowledge of staging that distance. We did eight miles very comfortably and amusingly on the board-seated flats, and survived the 16 miles of rather rough stage and hack life, to be taken up by the good people of Hot Springs, and well done for in the way of good and abundant eating; an elegant reception was given us, attended by at least 75 well-attired and cultivated ladies, while of the sterner sex nearly as many were present as

could be pressed into the immense assembly-room of the Arlington House, for mutual speech-making and fraternal compliments, to early give way for the "on with the dance." Of course, not being much of a dancist, and too old to learn, we fell back on certain reserved rights that we possessed "up the creek," and sought our welcome and worthy bed at the cheerful and cheering hostelry where we had already twice feasted to repletion, and in the Grand Central Hotel spent as refreshing a night in quiet sleep as ever we did a long time ago, when we were a boy.

There are three monster hotels—the Hot Springs, the Grand Central and the Arlington—not counting an astonishing number of *caravansaries* of less, and some of very little note, as hotels and boarding-houses. Of a fair number of them, in justice and truth, it is affirmed that they are very similar to the singed cat, immensely better than they look, while several of them *do* look well and are said to be well conducted in feeding, sleeping, and comfortable internal discipline.

Hot Springs has several thousand inhabitants, churches, schools, a street railroad nearly two miles long, two stage companies—the El Paso and Independent lines—both officered and manned by most accommodating persons, with equipage of excellent horses and coaches.

#### ARLINGTON HOTEL, HOT SPRINGS.

While the fame of the almost miraculous thermal waters of these springs has spread rapidly over the country, the appliances for their use have not increased in any adequate degree. A deficiency as to hotel accommodation the proprietors of the Arlington determined to supply, and having selected and secured the most eligible site in the valley for the purpose, they have opened to the public one of the most elegant and spacious hotels in the Southwest. It is beautiful and attractive in design, and elaborate and complete in its fittings and arrangements. It overlooks Gov. Rector's well-known arsenic spring, and its roof covers his most valuable bath-house. It is lighted throughout by gas, and an electric annunciator puts every room in communication with the office. Extraordinary precautions have been taken against fire, and in the event of fire the house has been so constructed as to afford as ample and easy egress from either of the upper stories as from the lower or ground floor. The proprietors have spared no expense, and they exert their best efforts to promote the comfort and convenience of their guests.

## FROM THE "DEXTER CITY ENTERPRISE."

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C. E. STOKES, EDITOR.

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At 5.30 A. M. on September 29th, at Poplar Bluff, we took a seat in one of the magnificent palace coaches, with a number of our brethren of the quill, to visit the great commonwealth of Arkansas. Hon. J. M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, and Col. T. B. Mills, of the *Spirit of Arkansas*, were the originators of the excursion, and it is feebly expressing the facts when we say that everything connected with the preparation was grand, princely and superb.

The accommodations furnished by the great railway which Col. Loughborough represented consisted of a train of beautiful and comfortable palace and passenger coaches and elegant Pullman sleepers. Arriving at Walnut Ridge the party partook of a sumptuous breakfast, by which time we were all wide-awake and on the *qui vive* to see everything possible of interest in our sister State. At Newport, a thriving little town on the east bank of White river, we halted half an hour, and were joined by Col. Haskell, of the spicy *News*. Again the whistle sounds "down brakes," and we find ourselves at Judsonia, a beautiful little village on the north bank of the Little Red river, where we were met by a committee of citizens with banners flying, tendering the excursionists a hearty welcome to the State. This place is situated six miles from the celebrated Sulphur Springs at Searcy, and was founded by a colony of Northern men. The chief attraction here is the elegant Judson University, with Rev. Benjamin Thomas, A. M., as President, supported by a full corps of accomplished teachers. The university bids fair to surpass anything of the kind in the State, and is situated in one of the healthiest portions of the country.

"All aboard!" and the train thundered along through the rich arable lands and lively little towns until we reached the City of Roses—the beautiful capital—Little Rock. Crossing the majestic Arkansas on the grand railroad bridge, we halted at the magnificent passenger depot of the road. Here we were met by a delegation of citizens, headed by the superb city cornet band, and escorted to the city, arriving there at 2.30 P. M., and in less than an hour the whole party were seated in the elegant parlors of the hospitable citizens who had volunteered to entertain us, and at four o'clock we were discussing with usual editorial activity and earnestness the bountiful and refreshing viands set before us.

It was our good fortune to be assigned to dine with Mr. W. H. Winfield, an old Southeast Missourian, and we feel truly proud at having been the guest of such an urbane, hospitable gentleman, and at being so richly entertained by so

refined and accomplished family. Long will our sojourn with Mr. W. remain one of the pleasantest memories of our trip. After dinner we took a carriage with some friends and had a drive over portions of the city — saw the Blind Institute — the huge, massive gray walls that surround the Penitentiary; the beautiful grounds around the United States Arsenal, and also the tasty and magnificent St. John's College, besides hundreds of elegant residences and business houses, some of which would adorn any city. It would be futile to attempt to describe with any sort of correctness all the beauties and magnificent taste for which Little Rock is so proverbial. Suffice it to say, it is fully entitled to the beautiful sobriquet, "the City of Roses," and its gallant citizens deserve the good name they have won for hospitality, sociability and true refinement.

It is night, and the city is brilliantly illuminated by its myriads of gas-jets, and the grand occasion of the excursion, the banquet, is announced, and we all repair to the dazzlingly-lighted "Concordia Hall," where our formal reception and welcome is to take place. And now, *avaunt* editorial cares and duties, and ho! for a "feast of reason and a flow of soul" — sparkling champagne and rich, mellow wine flowed in perfect profusion, while ever and anon the great hall would fairly shake with the enthusiastic applause to the beautiful and eloquent speeches in reply to toasts. It was there we met in social conversation the celebrities of all parties, and learned of the grand and rapid strides Arkansas is now making towards a great and glorious future; and heartily did the press representatives of the great Northwest bid her a hearty God-speed in her progressive march, and hope she may now ever be free from the evils which have so retarded her growth, and obstructed the great flow of immigration which is now and will continue seeking homes there. After the banquet, which was grand and *recherche* beyond even an attempt at description, we left for Hot Springs. At Malvern we were met by her liberal and whole-souled citizens, who had in waiting a tempting and truly elegant breakfast.

Here we took the narrow-gauge railroad, which is now in process of construction between those places, upon which we went ten miles, and were here met by citizens from the Springs with carriages, stages and hacks, and conveyed to the celebrated health resort. Here going to the palatial Arlington Hotel, we found a dinner "fit for the gods," to which we did full justice. At nine P. M. we assembled in the great hall of the Arlington, at which time a formal reception speech was delivered by Col. J. M. Harrell. Immediately came a grand ball, where we witnessed the beauty and gallantry of the valley.

We visited the different springs — saw the vast horde of health-seekers, and learned from all we conversed with of the powerful health-giving qualities of the waters there. The scenery is grand and picturesque, and the wonders to be seen there are well worth a visit from the healthy, and the truly wonderful curative effects of the waters are a God-send to the afflicted. At eight A. M. Friday we left the Springs for Arkadelphia, where we were again welcomed and escorted to a splendid barbecue prepared by the citizens. After enjoying the hospitalities of the good citizens until 10 P. M. we returned to Little Rock, and lying over until morning (Saturday), the party divided, part going over the

Fort Smith Railroad and the others over the Memphis & Little Rock road as far as Forrest City, passing through the prairies of Arkansas, the most beautiful part of the State. The party then returned to Little Rock and immediately left for home.

At the great land office of the enterprising Messrs. T. B. Mills & Co., Little Rock, we found every facility for obtaining information in regard to the lands and productions of Arkansas, and learned that there are now in market at unusually low rates, timber, prairie, stock, wheat, corn, cotton, fruit, sugar, grape, pine, oak, coal and mineral lands of the finest quality. The St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad Company has a land grant from the United States of nearly two million acres of rich, arable farming lands, lying on either side of the road, some of which are located in thickly-settled sections, where there are mills, churches and schools. These fine lands can be bought on the very best terms at from \$3 to \$5 per acre.

The State Government is again in the hands of the people, and peace and good order reign supreme. Taxation for State purposes cannot exceed one per cent., and free schools are maintained and supported. The colored people constitute only one-fourth of the population. The climate is unsurpassed, and corn, cotton, wheat, oats, fruits and vegetables of all kinds can be grown with certainty. Arkansas has never been afflicted with grasshoppers, cotton worms or other destructive insects, thus giving desirable homes to the industrious poor man, where he is *sure* of the fruits of his labor. Besides this, Arkansas presents a most inviting and tempting field to capitalists and manufacturers. There are vast and illimitable forests of white oak for stave and ship timbers, black and red oak, poplar, cypress, yellow pine, post oak, ash, beech, bois d'arc, cedar, hickory, gum, sassafras and walnut.

The very best of feeling exists between Southern and Northern men, one feeling as secure in life, liberty and property as the other, all political difficulties having been settled and forgotten, and all parties have gone to work to properly develop the great resources of the State.

We saw some as fine fruit as one could wish for—pears weighing 25 ounces; apples two pounds, and as fine grapes as ever grew in California. Frost-bitten farmers of the bleak and wintry North, we would advise you to go look at Arkansas. The great railway which traverses the State from one end to the other offers magnificent inducements to explorers. Our word for it, you will find millions of acres of cheap and powerful producing land, good laws, a wise and good constitution, and a refined and hospitable people.

The entire party was lavish in the praise of Hon. J. M. Loughborough and Col. T. B. Mills, and well do they deserve it. The excursion was a grand success, and we trust will redound to the benefit and pleasure of all concerned.

## FROM THE "DEMOCRAT," HILLSBORO.

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R. W. McMULLIN, EDITOR.

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In response to an invitation from Hon. J. M. Loughborough, Land Commissioner of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, and from T. B. Mills & Co., publishers of the *Spirit of Arkansas*, we went to De Soto, where we boarded the excursion train. The object of the excursion was to give those desiring it an opportunity to see the State of Arkansas as it is; to ascertain the condition of its government and society; and to judge, after examination, of the character of its soil and products.

The party was composed of members of the press from the States of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Kansas, Ohio and Missouri, and was joined in Arkansas by several editors of that State. A train of Pullman cars was furnished the party, and Col. Loughborough and Mr. Mills labored with untiring energy to secure the comfort of their guests, and to enable them to see all that could be seen during the limited time they had to spare; and these two gentlemen, as well as many other citizens of Arkansas, will always be held in grateful remembrance for the many kindnesses and courtesies shown us.

When we got on the train the visitors were all asleep, and we were soon wooing the embraces of Morpheus ourself. After a fitful sleep we awoke next morning in the State of Arkansas, and looking through the window saw a vast scope of level country, covered with a thick growth of timber—a wild, uncultivated expanse—inviting only as a resort for hunters and those in search of solitude or wild adventures. For many miles there was no change in the appearance of the country. The ground appeared flat and wet, but producing an abundance of the finest pine timber the eye ever beheld.

At about nine o'clock Wednesday we reached a station called Walnut Ridge, where breakfast for our party was in waiting, which we dispatched without much ceremony. Here we found a farming country, well supplied with timber, waiting for occupation and cultivation. This can be said of the greater portion of the country traversed by us. According to the Arkansans, Arkansas is the farmers' paradise, and we wonder that so few are enjoying the blessings in store for them there. There is certainly good land and plenty of it, which can be bought very cheap. The St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad Company have many thousands of acres of the best land, which they are offering to actual settlers on very reasonable terms.

Leaving Walnut Ridge we arrived at Little Rock in the afternoon; were met at the depot by the citizens of the place, and conducted to their homes and provided with excellent dinners. It was our good fortune to be entertained by

Mr. W. H. Winfield, formerly a newspaper editor at Iron-ton, Mo., now practicing law at Little Rock. After dinner we were provided with carriages, and shown the city—a neat, healthy-looking place—the home of many wide-awake, enterprising men, who are making their presence and influence felt throughout the surrounding country as well as at home. Among these enterprising men we must mention T. B. Mills & Co., publishers of the *Spirit of Arkansas*.

In the evening a banquet was spread in the city hall, to which we were all invited, and where we met the prominent men of the place. The tables were spread with all the delicacies and luxuries of the season, and wines and champagne flowed like water. After eating, several hours were spent in offering toasts and responses, speech-making, etc. Here, in the capital of the State, we had the best opportunity of studying the character of the people and determining their feelings towards each other and the rest of mankind. We saw sitting side by side men who, but a few months ago, were leading against each other bands of armed men, in a deadly strife for power and pelf. Now there is no contention but that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who can best work and best agree. All unite in praise of Governor Garland and their State government. In the hall of the Merchants' Exchange we were shown specimens of the products of the State—apples and pears as fine as can be grown in any country, the tallest wheat, oats, millet and corn that we ever saw; fine vegetables, and last though not least, specimens of the timber. They have certainly as fine timber for ornamental work as the world produces. In the railroad workshop at Little Rock we saw a cabinet constructed there for Col. Loughborough of Arkansas wood, which, as a specimen of wood-work, can hardly be excelled. It will be exhibited at the St. Louis Fair and also at the Centennial at Philadelphia. It is composed of 18 kinds of wood, if we remember correctly.

After the banquet and speech-making was over we again took the cars and proceeded to Malvern, where we breakfasted next morning, and whence we embarked for Hot Springs on the narrow-gauge railroad. Some flat cars had been furnished with rough board seats, and on these we were pushed up the valley by the powerful little engine, which, compared with the large freight engines on the St. Louis roads, appeared more like a toy. It was one of the pleasantest railroad rides we ever had; the air was cool and bracing, and free from dust, and the scenery was delightful.

There was only 10 miles of the road completed, and from thence to Hot Springs was about 20 miles of staging over the roughest road imaginable. A large train of the El Paso Company's coaches was waiting for us, and in them we were conveyed over the rocky road—about all the earth along the route having taken the form of dust, and flying in clouds, making our ride the more disagreeable. But our reception at Hot Springs, and the wonders of nature there revealed to our astonished visions, amply repaid us for all the discomforts of the trip. Free baths were placed at our disposal, excellent dinners were given us at the hotels, and the remainder of the day was spent in company with citizens of the place, who kindly conducted and explained to us all, or as many of the great wonders as we had time to see. At night "hops" were given at

the two largest hotels, the Arlington and the Hot Springs, to both of which the excursionists had free invitations, and where we saw the *elite* of the city trimmed out in all the style of a fashionable watering-place.

After a short sleep at the hotels, we were up early in the morning, ready to start on our return trip, but the stages were delayed an hour or two in starting, and on the way a team attached to a heavily loaded coach ran away, ran into the next coach, one of the horses getting a foot in the wheel and breaking his leg. The horse was shot and rolled out of the road, the damages to the coach were repaired, and on we went; but the delays had put us behind time, and we reached Malvern at a later hour than was intended. We lost no time in boarding the train for Arkadelphia, where an old-fashioned barbecue had been prepared for us, but as we arrived three or four hours late, the bread and meat had got very dry, but we were hungry enough for the occasion. It was nearly night when we finished our dinner, and so our trip down the road had to be given up; but we ran on down eight or nine miles, and had a view of some of the large cotton plantations; took a stroll through the cotton-fields, and saw the darkies picking cotton, and after it got too dark to see any more, returned to Arkadelphia, where an address of welcome was delivered by Col. Gaulding, editor of a paper at that place, and several hours were spent in speech-making.

Leaving Malvern, we returned to Little Rock, where next morning our party divided, one crowd going out a hundred miles or more on the Fort Smith road, and the other on the Memphis road to Forrest City, 95 miles distant. The party over the Fort Smith road report having had a good time, hospitable receptions, etc. They returned in good time.

Our party going east saw a variety of scenery, pine forests, cypress swamps, cane-brakes and fine farms, and crossed a prairie which is 90 miles in length, and passed several smaller prairies. We stopped at several towns along the road, where the citizens had gathered with specimens of their products to show us—fruits, grain, etc.—as fine as any State can produce. The road was in poor condition, and the cars nearly worn out, and our rate of speed was necessarily slow, so that we arrived at our dinner at Forrest City after three o'clock. An address of welcome was delivered by Mayor Pope, which was responded to by Dr. Thomas, of Chicago, in a very ill-timed political speech of the "independent people's party" sort, after which we were conducted to the hotels and furnished with such good dinners that we were all in good humor again. Carriages and saddle-horses were placed at the disposal of the crowd, and the time till sunset was spent in seeing the surrounding country. In company with Col. Cobb, of Forrest City, and mounted on a fine saddle-horse, we rode out about three miles, through a continuous line of finely cultivated, rich farms, with comfortable and neat residences, showing not only that the country is capable of producing good crops, but also that the citizens there are industrious and intelligent.

We started from Forrest City on our return to Little Rock just before dark, and in about nine hours reached our place of destination, having made but about nine miles per hour, partly on account of the bad road and partly occa-



sioned by hot boxes, which threatened several times to burn up the cars, and which had to be cooled off. It is but just, though, to state that this road is being rapidly repaired and placed in good condition.

At Little Rock we took the cars for home, arriving at Arcadia for dinner at two o'clock Sunday, got a good dinner and plenty of it, and that evening got home safe and sound.

Taken altogether, our trip was a very pleasant one, and will be long remembered. At every place we stopped we were very hospitably entertained by the citizens, who seemed to regret that our short stay permitted them to do so little for us. There is an immense quantity of rich land in the State of Arkansas, unsettled and uncultivated; thousands and thousands of acres being close to railroads, and offering cheap homes to the thousands of poor people who inhabit the more densely populated States of the Union. Wherever the wild vegetation has been subdued by cultivation, and the warm rays of the sun have had a chance to evaporate the surplus water, the country seems to be as healthy as any, and we saw but few indications of sickness among the people. Land is cheap, ranging in price from \$1 to \$10 per acre, and that owned by the Cairo & Fulton Railroad Company can be had on such easy terms that no man need be too poor to secure a home.

In the excursion party were several persons who had never been in the South before; had never seen cotton growing before, and had entertained very erroneous opinions of the people of the South. They were, consequently, astonished at every turn, and their astonishment could only find vent in offering resolutions and making speeches, and the frequency of these outbursts and the delay occasioned by them got to be very annoying to the few Missouri editors, who, with characteristic Missouri modesty, were kept in the background by their more brassy brethren from Chicago and other Northern cities; but we will not complain, since it only gave us a chance to study the character of others besides the citizens of Arkansas, with whom we already felt pretty well acquainted.

We have not space to refer particularly to those to whom we are indebted—citizens of Arkansas as well as fellow-excursionists—for courtesies shown and information given, which added to the pleasures of the trip, but will hereby thank them all collectively. To Messrs. Loughborough and Mills we owe a debt, which we will endeavor to pay in the proper way. We hope that the excursion may result as profitably to them as it has pleasurably to us.

## FROM THE "IRON COUNTY REGISTER," IRONTON.

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W. G. DILTS, CORRESPONDENT.

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In fulfillment of my promise I will proceed to give a slight sketch of the resources and capabilities of the State of Arkansas; the conclusions arrived at through personal contact with many of its most intelligent citizens, and the advice we would give to those in need of a place where they may surely and easily make a comfortable living.

Arkansas was originally a part of that vast region of country purchased of France in 1803; organized as a Territory in 1809, and admitted into the Union in 1836 as the twelfth State. Occupying an advantageous location in the temperate zone, the characteristics of soil and climate are similar to those found in both Northern and Southern States. The State is a beautiful admixture of hill, plain, prairie and wood-land, and is one of the best watered States in the Union, having not less than 10 rivers so arranged as to intersect nearly every portion of the State. It also has about 3,500 miles of navigation; thus furnishing cheap transportation to the various industries which are rapidly increasing within its borders.

Timber is found of many different varieties, and in the greatest abundance; in fact, it is in many places only too abundant for the rapid progress of the settler. Yet it is often the case that the timber found upon the land will pay for the land and the clearing, leaving the land as a clear gift; in rather a bad shape for farming, however, on account of the numerous stumps remaining, but the farmer is in a great measure compensated for this inconvenience by the richness of the soil. Its immense pine forests, covering about one-tenth of the area of the State, will in a few years become of great value, both by reason of this timber being so rapidly removed from the more thickly settled portions of the West, and the increased settlement of this State will make her forests available to those portions of the country which, being exclusively prairie, have not this necessary adjunct to civilization. And it will not be many years before the large importations of lumber from Michigan and Minnesota to Kansas, Missouri and other Southwestern States will cease, and the forests of Arkansas will be drawn upon in their stead.

The climate of Arkansas during the greater part of the year is mild and salubrious; in parts of the State there is what is called the sickly season, which lasts two or three months; but with proper care and clothing, much of the sickness now prevalent may be avoided. It has been the custom among the poorer classes to wear only cotton clothing at all seasons of the year; whereas they might, with no additional expense, and but little trouble, obtain small flocks of

sheep, and thereby provide for themselves woolen clothing, which would be more conducive to health, and much more effectually protect them from the sudden changes of temperature which occur here as in all latitudes.

Snow or ice is rarely found, and plowing may be done every month in the year. Garden crops are abundant, and are never nipped by the frosts at an untimely season, nor eaten up by the grasshopper at any season of the year. With a delightful climate, abundant water, rich alluvial soil on the bottoms, and vast forests of timber on the hills; with coal, zinc, lead and iron under the surface, we do not see what greater inducements could be presented to tempt and amply reward the immigrant, whether he select agriculture, stock-raising, fruit-growing, mining, or any other of the numerous profitable and growing industries of the country. Nature has done wonders for this country, and all that is now needed is for man to begin where nature left off, to tickle her valleys and plains with the plow and hoe, and cause them to laugh with the most bountiful harvests.

Cotton is the principal product of the farms, or plantations, though all other crops are raised with equal facility and certainty. Cotton is uniformly a success, and bears from one to one and a half bales per acre, which is worth from \$60 to \$100; this compares favorably with the Northern farmers' crop of 80 bushels of corn per acre, worth from \$16 to \$24. The crop for the present year is a good one, and is raised mainly on lands which have been in cultivation for 50 or 60 years without rest or recuperation of any sort. The great mistake of the majority of Southern farmers seems to have been the raising of cotton to the exclusion of almost all other products. A farmer, whether he have 100 or 1,000 acres, will put it all in cotton; it is true he usually gets a fair price, but he always pays two prices for many of his necessities, and often more for his luxuries. For instance, they pay 25 cents per pound for bacon, and \$12 to \$14 per barrel for flour, which they could certainly raise for less than half that amount. Of course there are many progressive farmers who have passed this point, but we heard of many who yet cling to the traditions of their forefathers, which seem to have said raise cotton, first, last, and all the time.

Capital has every inducement to make profitable ventures.

The public school system is in no danger from the encroachments which seem to threaten its existence in some of the Eastern States. This bulwark of the people's liberties is in this State most securely guarded; compulsory education, which is the only practicable plan in any age or country, is provided for in its statutes. It is also provided that whites and blacks shall be educated in separate schools, which we also take to be a wise provision.

Arkansas is in many respects a new State. Before the war its improvement, like some other of the Southern States, was retarded by slavery. It was ravaged and almost depopulated by war. Its people were scattered, and its plantations laid waste; but the rapidity with which it is rising from its ruins speaks volumes for the resources of the country and character of the people remaining, and those who have lately gone into the State.

Among those most energetic, and striving hardest for the advancement of their State, we find many lately from the North; and those who had become

well-nigh disheartened with the bad condition of the country a few years ago seem to have imbibed new energy from the example of their Northern brethren; yet, where all seem alike interested in its progress, and all work in harmony as they seem now to do, it is needless to determine who is most in earnest.

Hon. J. M. Loughborough and T. B. Mills & Co., of Little Rock, have for sale much of the best and cheapest lands in the State, and will, upon application, give valuable information to those seeking homes. The energy which they exhibit cannot fail to inspire a like energy in all with whom they come in contact.

In conclusion we would offer a word of advice to those proposing to emigrate to Arkansas or any other State. In the first place, determine as nearly as you can the part of country in which you desire to locate; this you may do by means of correspondence and other means of inquiry; then obtain special rates over the railroad, which are granted all immigrants, and visit in person the place or locality you may have in view. Do not, like too many, take your families and strike out at random, trusting to chance to bring you out all right; better far that you leave them at home for a year or more, while you go and prepare a home for them.

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## FROM THE "ST. CHARLES GOSSIP."

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CHAS. GATZWEILER, CORRESPONDENT.

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Tuesday, September 28th, there started from St. Louis, by invitation of Senator J. M. Loughborough and T. B. Mills & Co., of Little Rock, a company of over 100 gentlemen, representing the press of the Northwest, and bound for a trip through the great but comparatively unknown State of Arkansas. A special train of five Pullman palace sleeping cars and one elegant day coach left the depot of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad at nine o'clock in the evening, and while the men from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri slept, they were drawn swiftly, over the smooth road southward, and when morning came they looked upon the level, heavily timbered land of Northern Arkansas. The train sped on through the forest, broken only by small clearings, where the settlers had erected clusters of dwellings, until Walnut Ridge was reached, and there the party partook of breakfast. And there began, over the smoking hot meal in the little hotel, the state of sociability and good fellowship that ripened at the State capital, and grew stronger as the knights of the quill went on their way, and were warmed by the balmy atmosphere and cheered by the proverbial hospitality of the South.

All the forenoon the special train pushed southward through the growth of forest from which timber is sent to the Pacific slope, and past the settlement and clearings in which grew fine crops of corn and cotton. Sixty-five miles from the northern boundary, the excursionists saw the thriving village of Newport, on the site of which there was not a single house two years ago. At Judsonia the stars and stripes were on the depot platform over a bale of cotton, the emblem of which all could see the meaning. At this place is located the Judson University, a thriving school. A few miles back from the railroad is Searcy, the county seat, where are sulphur springs, which form quite an attraction. Here the indications all point to a state of peace, prosperity and plenty, but it is by no means our intention to dwell upon the condition of the country through which the excursionists passed. Nature has been so generous in her bestowals here that he who travels by the fast express may read. The Iron Mountain road passes over a smooth wooded country, only diversified by beautiful streams, which will afford outlet in days to come for the great wealth that is to reward the tiller of the soil, the artisan and the manufacturer. If we were pleased with the country through which we passed on that beautiful September day, some stronger word must be used to express our feelings in regard to Little Rock.

“THE CITY OF ROSES.”

As the train slackened speed and passed over the bridge of the Arkansas and through the suburbs, a fine view was afforded of the town and its picturesque surroundings. At the depot the excursionists were greeted with music and cheers, and the large assemblage of citizens extended a hearty welcome to all. The entertainment here was by a number of leading citizens of the place, and the Northern editors found all and more than they had been led to expect by the most accounts of Southern travelers. There was a hearty warmth in the manner of our treatment from the moment we landed on the depot platform until the party left the city. It was not the hospitality made up of the many little cold conventionalities of etiquette, but a perfectly natural, sincere entertaining, the characteristics of which are best described in the word *politeness*, when we use that word in its finest and broadest sense. We went among entire strangers, and with some slight hesitancy, but we doubt if there were a dozen men out of the hundred who, when traveling, were ever made to feel more thoroughly at home. It was all done, too, without the least assumption to pretension, and it is, perhaps, not strange that we have come to believe that the people of the South have really a finer knowledge of what constitutes hospitality than those of the North.

In the afternoon the visitors rode to all the principal points of interest in and about Little Rock—the Government Cemetery, St. John's College, the State Prison, Fair Grounds, State Arsenal, etc. Little Rock is a beautiful city. It is finely situated on the bluff, on the south side of the river, and the country stretching away to the west and south is rolling and diversified. Lying high as it does, it has good natural drainage, and is entirely free from the malarious diseases that are sometimes prevalent in those localities which are lower. The

streets are well laid out and need but little improvement, and a drive through and about the city is a rare treat, both on account of the scenery and elegance of many of the dwellings and public buildings. The business streets have a fine appearance, and the retail stores do a good business, as do also several wholesale houses. There are a number of manufactories, but they are not equal to the demand, and it is probable that this branch of industry will be largely augmented in the coming few years. Little Rock wears an appearance of general activity, and there are indications even in the style of the buildings that its inhabitants are live men. In the last decade the city has quadrupled its population. In 1865, at the close of the war, it contained only about 5,000 inhabitants, and now it has 20,000.

All of this growth, it must be borne in mind, has been going on not under favorable circumstances, but under a condition of things the very reverse of propitiatory. It should be remembered that the war, nominally ended in 1865, did not actually close in Arkansas until a twelve-month ago, and that the State, and particularly the locality of the capital, were perturbed and disturbed almost constantly. With the drawback of all this great disadvantage, Little Rock has done wonderfully. She has triumphed over adverse circumstances which would have weighed down and ruined many cities with the same advantages of fine water and other connections. Now the war feeling is well-nigh dead, and though there are a few fossils who retain distinctly the impressions made upon them ten and fifteen years ago, the great majority of citizens in this Southern town will extend a hearty welcome to the Northern man who comes to abide with them.

MESSRS. T. B. MILLS & CO.

Prominent above the active men of Little Rock are the gentlemen who compose this company of land agents, the publishers and proprietors of the *Spirit of Arkansas*. Mr. Mills is an Ohio man, a native of the county of Ashtabula, but for the past 16 years has been in the West and Southwest. He was one of the foremost in projecting and carrying out the plan of the excursion, and accompanied the party to St. Louis, becoming, by his ready and pleasant address, acquainted with every member of the party. The office of the company at Little Rock was a rendezvous for the excursionists, and we, in common with others, passed a very pleasant hour in the free reading-room connected with the office, and in the Chamber of Commerce, examining the agricultural and mineral collections made by this enterprising firm. Here were to be found specimens of what can be raised in Arkansas—cotton, corn, the cereals, fruits, etc.—in great variety and in excellent condition. The mineral collection was also quite complete and very interesting. Messrs. Mills & Co. made the collection by offering premiums for the best specimens in the various classes, and they got together hastily a melange of the crops with which the country smiles. Nearly all the specimens that are preservable will be sent with others to the Centennial.

## A BIG BANQUET,

and a model one in all respects, was that which the citizens of Little Rock prepared for the entertainment of the editors on the evening of September 29th, at Concordia Hall. There was, by the way, something very happy in the happening of the name of the place in which hosts and guests sat down to dine. It was eminently proper that this meeting of representative men of the North and South should be in *concordia*. The whole affair was marked by concord and good feeling, and the speeches on both sides could not have been more expressive of such feeling if their makers had all taken for their texts the legend upon the front of the building in which they assembled. Most of the prominent men of Little Rock—and Little Rock is a city of noteworthy men—sat down to the bountifully laden board with their guests, and the company numbered not far from 250 persons. Nothing was wanting to make it an elegant affair, and the banquet was one of the happiest entertainments of the kind that ever was given in the Southwest, and one for which the Committee of Arrangements deserve the utmost praise. The table bore the choicest viands and the rarest vintage; excellent music was discoursed, and the toasts were responded to in a manner that is seldom if ever excelled; Northern, Southern and Western orators vied with each other in eloquence and wit. Senator Loughborough presided, and the address of welcome was delivered by Gen. R. C. Newton. Among those present who spoke during the evening were Mr. Robinson, of Indiana; Col. T. B. Mills, of Little Rock; Judges U. M. Rose and T. D. W. Yonley, Hon. W. W. Wilshire and U. D. Cole, of Indiana; Chief Justice English, Gen. J. M. Pomeroy, Gen. A. W. Bishop, Col. R. A. Howard, and others. There were also among the prominent guests Col. Thomas Essex, of St. Louis, and Col. G. W. Hered.

It was not until a late hour that the speech-making was concluded and the guests took the train at the depot, all enthusiastic in their praises of the gentlemen and ladies of the "City of Roses," and the princely welcome they had extended. The excursion party awoke next morning in

## MALVERN.

Here we breakfasted, and then by the courtesy of G. P. C. Rumbough took the narrow-gauge railroad now in process of construction to Hot Springs. This road, which will cost when completed, with the necessary rolling-stock, about \$325,000, is the private enterprise of Joe Reynolds, a Northern capitalist. After a ride of seven or eight miles on this road the party left the train, and in a few minutes the whole number had been transferred to the seats of the various vehicles in waiting to transport them to the Springs. It was only a few minutes before the procession started on its winding way, and

## A NOVEL SCENE

was then afforded the few who were there to see. The people of Hot Springs had furnished on short notice means of travel for over 150 persons, and to do this they had been compelled to press into service almost everything that had

wheels and could be drawn by horses and mules. The caravan was a motley one, and as the glance wandered along the line of the strange procession it rested on stages of the El Paso line, stages of the independent line, ambulances, carriages, wagons from the Ark collection and some from—well, no one knew where. There was no dissatisfaction, however; there were no invalids in the crowd; they were all healthy, and at that particular time happy men, and if they had received the information when they jumped from the train that they would be obliged to walk, the throng would have resolved itself instantly into a committee of the whole on walking, and walked without more ado, through the forest and over the mountains, up and down long hills and through unbridged streams. The road was a rough one, and it was more than once that every individual editor made sundry extravagant gestures which were purely unintentional, and several times the occupants of the covered carriages appeared as if trying to punch holes through the tops with their heads. Still jollity reigned supreme and every jolt produced a joke. The woods rang with laugh and song<sup>6</sup> as they never did before, probably, in the history of Arkansas, and the inmates of the few log cabins in the occasional clearings invariably watched the passage of the procession with unmeasured astonishment. The scenery at some points was magnificent, and it was always interesting. The timber, the heaviest that we saw in the State, was principally pine and white oak, though there were nearly all of the less common growths, too, and the shade of the big trees over the narrow winding road was very grateful. When the party had traveled what was generally considered about fifteen miles, they were told they had gone but five, and when they arrived at the Springs there were few men who could be made to believe they had rode but fifteen miles. Six hours was occupied in the journey, and when it had been concluded and the excitement was gone, fatigue made itself felt in some degree. A little way out from the village of our destination the caravan was met by a large cavalcade of citizens, who escorted the party into town.

#### HOT SPRINGS

village lies in a narrow valley, which is contracted at either end until it becomes a gorge. Through the centre of this valley runs one broad street, on either side of which are the hotels, private dwellings and places of business, occupying the few yards of space back to the mountains, while there are a few small buildings on the hillside. The street is a straggling one, and most of the buildings are decidedly dilapidated, though the Arlington and one or two other hotels are handsome structures of the modern style. The cause of this scarcity of fine buildings is accounted for in the fact that the title to the springs and the land immediately adjoining is in dispute. When the claims of the rival litigants, the Government and certain private parties, are adjusted, and men can read their title clear, the sound of the hammer and trowel will be heard in the valley, and the spurs of the Ozarks will be crowned with magnificent dwellings and public caravansaries. If the problem does not arrive at a satisfactory conclusion, capitalists will build upon the nearest available sites, and the temporary buildings alone will occupy the contested property.



The wonderful thermal springs upon the mountain side, which were celebrated in the legends of the Indians and sought for as the fountain of immortality by Pamphilo de Narvaez and Ponce de Leon, and later by De Soto, are now sought by the wealthy invalids of the United States, and it is not seldom that the hotel registers show the names of those who come from the other world. The fabulous fame that the springs had in the fifteenth century has been dispelled, under the light of later day intelligence, and in its stead has risen a reputation based upon scientific medical knowledge, and thousands verify every season what has been said of the wonderful cures effected here.

Up the mountain side, in the rear of the principal hotels and baths, are the hot springs, 50 or more in number, the waters of which are bathed in and drank. A subdivision of our party is escorted about and shown the sights by Dr. Moorhead, a man whose ready knowledge extends far outside of that required in the practice of his profession. We see the water foaming forth in large streams and small from the fissures in the volcanic rock, and see pools where the poorer invalids bathe. The water from some of the fountains will boil an egg in eight minutes. The temperature is 154° Fahrenheit. All around are the little openings in the stone mass from which the water bubbles as clear as crystal, and from which vapor floats away on the gentle breezes of the valley. After a little urging we drink a cupful of water from the "arsenic" spring, as hot as breakfast coffee, and are surprised to find that it is not only agreeable, but that it satisfies the thirst. Those who go to the springs for treatment drink the water freely, generally while in the bath, and every invalid has a "ral" can which holds about a quart. Analysis shows the presence in the water of a proportion of carbonic and silicic acids, with some sulphuric acid and chlorine, potash, soda, lime and magnesia. No salts or gases are found which cannot be produced in the laboratory, and what composes the remedial value of the springs is a matter of conjecture with scientific men. That there exists some subtle element which is a wonderful force in the cure of disease is known, but it is another and altogether more difficult matter to decide what that subtle element is.

Many theories have been advanced by scientific men and visionaries to account for the formation of these springs, and able arguments have been given by all classes in support of their several hypotheses; but it is generally conceded that volcanic action has had more to do in producing the result than any other agency. One of our party, who was "not a good judge of water," advanced the somewhat novel and very startling theory that the high temperature of the springs is due to the close proximity of that place devoted to our future punishment, which all strictly orthodox people believe to exist somewhere. He thought that the earth crust was thinner here than elsewhere, and that in consequence the water was heated by the infernal fires. As the only argument he advanced, however, to maintain the correctness of this supposition was that the waters in some places tasted very strongly of sulphur, we were not at all convinced. The water in all probability percolates to subterranean cavities, where it is heated and driven by the vapors generated, back to the surface. It is still difficult, after accepting this as the most natural conclusion, to account for the great

variation in temperature of springs which bubble from the rock only a few paces apart. Upon the opposite slope of the mountain, only a short distance from egg-boiling springs, the water is of the ordinary temperature.

We take a luxuriant and refreshing bath, and proceed to the Arlington for supper—supper of the genuine Southern style, appetizing and delicious. In the evening the editorial guests were complimented with a grand ball and reception banquet at the Arlington Hotel, and “the beauty and the chivalry” of Hot Springs earned many compliments for the manner in which they entertained their visitors. The sounds of revelry continued to the small hours of the morning. Hot Springs has two metropolitan institutions—a street railroad running to the park and through the entire valley village, and a live daily paper, the *Telegraph*. In the morning most of the visitors spent some time in seeing whatever of the place they had neglected on the day before, and we rattled off over the uneven road, leaving behind us the sun-lit summits of the Ozark Hills, with their groves of pine and cool, refreshing shades, carrying with them only pleasant recollections of the picturesque scenery and the bountiful hospitality of the inhabitants of Hot Springs. Down there in middle Arkansas, near the valley of the Ouachita, some time, a city of no mean pretensions will grow up, and the curative properties of the waters will be as widely known as those of any watering-place in the land. Hot Springs will be the Bath or Baden-Baden of America, the resort of the sick and of sight-seers—of wealth and fashion.

The drive back to the railroad was as interesting as the ride over, and to the half-dozen in the leading wagon perhaps more so, for having a slow team, and wishing to maintain the advance, they were compelled to blockade the road in various places with huge trees. The return was accomplished without incident of note, except one runaway down a long hill by which a horse was wounded, and in which several men narrowly escaped injury. The animal's misery was ended by a pistol-shot, and the wagon train moved on; every turn in the road revealing a new landscape of varied and glorious beauty.

At Malvern the party again took the splendid excursion train and went southward to

#### ARKADELPHIA,

where the people had prepared a mammoth barbecue dinner, and had roasted three beeves, six sheep, and several shoats, together with a variety of game. A quarter of a ton of flour had been baked into bread. Appetite was whetted by novelty, and at the long tables, in the pine grove, the editors ate as hearty a meal as the same number of men ever could. The ladies in attendance were, in all probability, convinced that Northern men have excellent appreciation of the good things which they showed themselves competent to prepare in such abundance, and we think they were also favorably impressed with what they saw of Northern gallantry. Arkadelphia is a go-ahead town of 2,500 population, the centre of a fine agricultural region, and has some very creditable buildings, though there are many which are very shabby in appearance. After dinner a large number of citizens, both ladies and gentlemen, joined the excursion, and the train sped along the road a number of miles south, to give the

strangers a view of the cotton-fields. To most of them it was the first time they had ever rambled in a cotton-field, and the novel experience was very pleasing. It was six o'clock, and the darkies could be seen carrying their baskets of cotton to the pens to have them weighed. They pick from 100 to 300 pounds per day, and get 75 cents per hundred weight, or 50 cents and their board. The yield in this vicinity was from a bale to a bale and a half per acre. The crop brings about \$75 per bale.

On returning to Arkadelphia a public reception was tendered at the Reames House, Judge H. B. Stewart being President. Col. Gauling delivered an apt speech of welcome, and then there was a general firing of lofty eloquence which redounded to the credit of both North and South. The expressions of the Arkansans teemed with good feeling and loyalty. Gen. Bishop, of Little Rock, referred to the feeling which existed 10 years ago, and contrasted it with the present. Col. Thompson spoke of the fine qualities of the soil, and complimented Senator Loughborough and Col. T. B. Mills, who had invited the attention of the Northern editors to the State. Judge Stewart said that the universal desire in Arkansas was for complete reconciliation, and Gen. McMillan had a few words to say of the richness of the Ouachita valley, expressing the hope that immigration might be encouraged until all of the lands were taken up. On behalf of the excursionists responses were made by Sidney Thomas, of Chicago, Mr. Robinson, of Fort Wayne, and Rev. W. A. Clark, of Elkhart, Ind. Further remarks were made by Senator Loughborough, and at a late hour the excursionists returned to the cars, and the morning of Saturday found us again at Little Rock, partaking of a breakfast at the Railroad Hotel.

At Little Rock the editors found invitations awaiting them to make trips over the Little Rock & Memphis and the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroads, and as there was not time for one train to make both runs, the party was divided. About one-half of the excursionists went each way.

The day the party separated (half going toward Fort Smith, the others to Memphis), we remained in Little Rock, where, as most of our people know, several of our former citizens are now located, and are well pleased with their new homes. We spent most of our time with Capt. Rottaker; he has risen to "Colonel" down there. He is at present Sheriff, and is about the most popular man in Little Rock.

## II.

A journey through Arkansas is no longer attended by perils and hardships, nor are the people a rude, uncivilized and dangerous class, and yet a popular opinion has prevailed that the commonwealth is a land which has nothing but the backwoods and barbarian elements of life; that the country is an unbroken wilderness, and its people an untutored horde typified in the characters met by the original "Arkansaw traveler." It was with the purpose of correcting this erroneous impression and of disseminating a knowledge of the actual condition of the State, that the editorial excursion party was organized and traveled through the country. The excursionists, to be sure, did not find everywhere the

indications of thrift which Ohio, Indiana and Illinois exhibit; they did not find the broad lands so plentifully dotted with white villages, but they did find a state of peace, prosperity and plenty. From Moark, upon the Missouri border, to Arkadelphia, in the valley of the Ouachita, and from the Mississippi river went to a point near the boundary of the Indian Territory, they saw everywhere the results of loyal citizenship, honest toil and friendly feeling. Arkansas has been sorely tried, but it has passed through the ordeal, and the delay in the development of its resources cannot be longer continued. The days of disruption are passed away forever, and the time has come when the news from this portion of the great Southwest will be, not of deeds of violence, but of the progress of many enriching enterprises, and the State will become known as it has never been before. That the people are

#### THOROUGHLY RECONCILED,

and that they expect and desire immigration from the Northern States, we had ample opportunity to learn.

#### AGRICULTURAL WEALTH.

The lands of Arkansas are diversified into lofty mountains, elevated plateaus, rolling prairies and rich bottoms, affording facilities for the raising of almost every crop known either to the North or South. The climate is salubrious, and hence cotton, the vine, and semi-tropical fruits are easily grown. We saw the famous Ouachita grape, which has been transplanted to France, growing in abundance, and we saw the rich fields white with the heaviest cotton-crop that has been known for years. Much of the farming is done in a very slovenly manner, but the returns are large, even when the ground is half-tilled, and there is conclusive evidence that more work would in many cases double the reward of the husbandman. A prominent gentleman remarked, in a speech at one of our stopping-places, "God has done everything for us, but we are so lazy. We want Northern energy." There is much to induce the farmer to go to Arkansas in the low prices of land. A farm of 160 acres, which in Minnesota would cost \$2,400, would cost only one-fifth of that sum here. Houses and timber are cheap, on account of the great plenty of fine timber.

Of late years much more attention has been given to the cultivation of Northern crops, including all the cereals, than formerly, and although cotton is king, a great deal of money is taken out of the soil in the form of corn, wheat, oats, potatoes, and other food crops. Of the small crops and vegetables, two crops can be raised in the year, and farmers can labor 10 months out of the 12 with good returns. Farming, however, is not the only means of money-making in Arkansas.

#### MINERAL AND TIMBER LANDS

demand a share of attention, for in them is to be found a great fund of future wealth. The forests of the northern portion of the State, broken only by occasional clearings, are full of the very finest timber—pine, oak, walnut, hickory, cypress and cedar being the principal kinds. The southern and western

parts of the State and the mountainous regions are equally well timbered, and the wood alone is worth more than the assessed value of the whole State.

It has often been said that Arkansas has greater mineral wealth than any other State, and hazardous as the statement first appears, it is borne out by figures. Coal, iron, lead and zinc are found in large quantities, and the first named is the most extensively deposited. The principal mines—the Ouita and the Spadra—are situated on the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad. The Ouita is 70 miles from Little Rock. Cars loaded at the mine can be delivered in St. Louis, Memphis, or any part of Texas, as the Fort Smith Railroad connects with the Memphis and Iron Mountain roads. The analysis of the coal shows it to be semi-anthracite and of the best quality. Satisfactory tests have been made in iron foundries, on railroads and steamboats, and everywhere the Ouita coal is found to be all that is required. The Spadra mine, situated 30 miles farther west on the same road, produces the same coal. In each mine the vein is nearly four feet thick. Within a very short space of time the gap needed to connect the Fort Smith road with the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad, at Fort Gibson, will be closed, and by that route Kansas and the States north of it will be supplied with Arkansas coal. The Arkansas river, which for over 150 miles passes directly through the Arkansas coal measures, gives a cheap outlet that will enable this coal to drive out all rivals.

There are several rich deposits of iron ore, and lead is found in quantities which pay for mining. Capital is needed to develop this mineral wealth, and the owners of mines are in many cases awaiting patiently for the arrival of men who have means necessary for proper working. Quarries of superior marble, granite, whetstone, hone, valuable clays, etc., abound.

#### PRICES AND TERMS.

Various large grants of land have been made to railroads. Most of these lands have been held in reserve for a number of years, while the intermediate sections have been taken up and improved, and are now occupied by a good class of people. The prices and terms at which lands may be had on the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad will serve to show to the farmer what he can do in almost every part of the State. The railroad runs almost exactly north and south, and on the Texas border connects with through lines for Houston, Galveston and other points. Title comes directly from the Government and free from encumbrance. Prices of land vary from \$1.50 per acre upward, with a general average of from \$3 to \$5 for good farming land. Terms of payment are as follows:

On ten years time, with interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum. First payment, at time of purchase, will be the interest on whole amount of purchase money for first year. Second payment, at beginning of second year, will be the interest on whole amount of purchase money for second year. Third payment, at beginning of third year, will be, first, one-ninth of the purchase money; second, the interest on remainder of purchase money for that year, and so on, at the beginning of each succeeding year, one-ninth of the whole purchase

money and the interest on the remainder thereof for one year, until all is paid, making ten years in all. Terms No. 2: One-fourth of purchase money and interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum on the remainder for one year, at time of purchase; the balance in one, two and three years, with interest at same rate, payable annually in advance. Terms No. 3: All the purchase money at time of purchase. To those purchasing on terms No. 2, a discount of ten per cent. from the price of the land. To those purchasing on terms No. 3, a discount of twenty per cent. from price of the land.

#### RAILROADS AND NAVIGABLE RIVERS.

Nearly all of the foreign capital in Arkansas is invested in railroads. The State is not so deficient in railroads as has been alleged. It has only 750 miles, but the roads have been judiciously built. Of the Iron Mountain road, formerly the Cairo & Fulton, we have already spoken. The land grant of this road is 2,500,000 acres. The Memphis & Little Rock road connects at its Mississippi terminus with the road leading to Louisville, Ky., with the Memphis & Charleston, and with the Mississippi & Tennessee. The Little Rock & Fort Smith road, running up the valley of the Arkansas, is now finished to within 40 miles on the border of the Indian Territory, and when completed will connect with the Missouri, Kansas & Texas at Fort Gibson, and through it with all the Western system. The New Orleans, Pine Bluff & Little Rock is complete from Pine Bluff to Chicot City, and a gap of only 40 miles remains to be closed. Extending from Helena, 60 miles west to the White river, is the Arkansas Central, which runs through one of the richest countries of the world.

Arkansas is not, however, as dependent upon railroads as many other States, for it has more navigable rivers than any of them. The Mississippi, St. Francis, White, Black, Arkansas, Ouachita and Red rivers have 3,500 miles of good navigable waters in the boundaries of the commonwealth, and commercial interests have not been dependent upon railroad transportation.

Manufactories of all kinds are needed in the State, and their establishment has been encouraged by freeing them from taxation for the next six years. There are many arguments in favor of manufacturing cotton where it is grown, and there is every reason to believe that in the next decade much will be done in this and other branches of mechanical industry. The abundance and variety of timber, coal and iron, as well as the heavy cotton crops, all point to the attainment of this end.

The system of public schools, planned upon that now in vogue in Ohio and the other Northern States, though still in its infancy, is showing the many good results that might be expected. The Constitution requires that the General Assembly shall provide by law that every child of sufficient mental and physical ability shall attend the public school during the period between the ages of five and eighteen years, for a term equivalent to three years, unless educated by other means. It is provided that blacks and whites shall be educated in separate schools.

## IN CONCLUSION.

Traveling through the State of Arkansas, devastated by the war and retarded in its development by the plundering of a ring of corrupt politicians, we could only be struck with the munificent wealth with which God has endowed this land, and the spirit of progress that in spite of all obstacles has prevailed. We had unusual advantages for studying the institutions and observing the condition of affairs in all parts of the State, and after becoming acquainted with its resources, we could only admit that if before we had thought ill of the country, it was only the prejudice of ignorance.

In the neat dwellings of the towns and in the log cabins of the forest and rolling prairies, we found and conversed with old Southerners and with Northern settlers, and all alike spoke in terms of satisfaction and praise. Everywhere we saw the first indications of great wealth to be attained in the future. Whether the toiler is a tiller of the soil or delves deeper and takes from the earth its varied minerals, wealth awaits him. Here are riches, in timber, in crops and in coal, but the State needs men. It needs brain and brawn and energy to develop its broad acres. The garden needs tilling, the lode and vein need working, and the forest must be utilized. Everywhere the cry is for more men—men of energy and men of capital. A prominent gentleman of Little Rock said to me, "We want more men like Mills." He referred to the great land agent, who is, perhaps, doing more to brighten the future of Arkansas than any other one man in the State. It will be largely through his well-directed efforts that the country will be settled by men whose toil shall enrich themselves and the communities and neighborhoods in which they locate. Arkansas needs immigration, and she is encouraging it by every means in her power.

## HOMEWARD.

On the morning of Sunday, the 3d of October, the excursion train was speeding northward again on the road from Little Rock to St. Louis, and the party was enabled to see the country which had formerly been passed over in the night. We stopped at Arcadia for dinner, and a banner of native cotton was there presented to the excursionists by the people of Hope. The customary speech-making accompanied the presentation, and before resuming our journey three rousing cheers were given for Senator Loughborough, when "all aboard" was sounded and the train moved on, passing several battle-grounds, among which were Pilot Knob, the wonderful Iron Mountain and Gad's Hill, well known from the desperate train robbery which occurred there a couple of years ago. We reached St. Louis just at dusk, and from this point most of the journalists separated for their homes in Kansas, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio, after one of the finest editorial excursions on record. And so ended the experience of this band of "Arkansas Travelers."

## CHAPTER XII.—OHIO.

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FROM THE "TOLEDO SUNDAY JOURNAL."

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H. S. CHAPIN, EDITOR.

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FOR YEARS past, perhaps always since its organization, people in the North have been led to believe that Arkansas was inhabited by a race of border-ruffians, and the difficulties which have occurred during the past three or four years have perhaps given occasion for the belief that the condition of society there was unsettled, insecure, and affording little protection for life, liberty or property.

It was with pleasure, therefore, that we found in every section of the State visited what seemed to be a condition of perfect quiet and peace; a general satisfaction with the present State officers, and a cheerful compliance with their authority; and everywhere leading citizens told us that life and property were secure, well protected by law, and that there was no terrorism anywhere throughout the State.

In every direction, also, is found cheap and fertile lands, and in many places the crops of a single year would more than pay the prices asked. For instance, on the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad, 23 miles from the latter place, is a large quantity of fine prairie land ready for the plow, which we were told could be bought for from \$3 to \$5 per acre. And on some parts of this prairie we saw fields of immense corn. It will also raise cotton, fruit, vegetables, &c., in abundance.

This is but a single instance, and it is only a fair specimen of what may be found in almost every section of the State. And from all we saw and learned we are induced to believe that there is no more inviting field for emigration, no place where such fertile land, so capable of producing such a variety of crops, and so easily accessible to market, can be bought for so nearly a nominal price.

About seven o'clock Wednesday morning we crossed the Missouri line and entered Arkansas at Moark, but nature pays no respect to State lines, and consequently the appearance of the country remained unchanged.



During the morning tickets had been issued to the members of the party assigning them as the guests of various residents of

#### LITTLE ROCK,

where the train arrived about three P. M., and found awaiting a large number of citizens with a band of music. The excursionists were speedily taken in charge by the citizens whose guests they were, and received as generous attention as though they had been old-time friends instead of strangers.

After dinner the time was occupied in riding through the city and suburbs, and we noted many attractive residences, surrounded by extensive and well-shaded grounds, large and substantial churches, and fine and commodious business houses. The city itself occupies a high and commanding position. No more attractive location could be found, and pleasant as the city now is, it certainly cannot compare with what it must become in the not distant future, when the wonderful capacities of the beautiful country surrounding it become better known and appreciated.

At the Chamber of Commerce Hall were exhibited a large variety of fruits, cereals, grasses, and vegetables of all kinds, nearly all of which were of mammoth proportions. We have not space to enumerate, but it is safe to say that most of the specimens exhibited exceeded anything which we had ever seen, or even read of being raised in the United States outside of California. There were also specimens of woods, several of which are not found in the North, and which present a beautiful appearance when manufactured into furniture, without coloring, as was demonstrated by samples of work exhibited.

#### THE BANQUET.

In the evening a banquet to the visitors was given by the citizens. The occasion proved so pleasant, and time passed so rapidly, that it was two o'clock before the assemblage dispersed, when the excursionists, accompanied by a number of citizens, proceeded to the train, went to sleep, and were started *en route* for

#### HOT SPRINGS.

This is literally a town with one street, that, with residences and business houses on either side, occupies all the space between the mountains, which rise on either side to the height of several hundred feet. There are a number of fine hotels. The town and springs are on a government reservation, and people, in buying and selling real estate, only give and receive a quit-claim title. The temperature of different springs varies; in some the hand can be held without inconvenience, while a small one, far up the mountain, was barely warm. Different springs contain different properties; there are the arsenic spring, the iron spring, and the magnesia spring, so named from the impregnation of the water. The former is the favorite drinking spring of the Arlington Hotel, and although too hot to swallow rapidly, is nevertheless pleasant and agreeable to the taste.

The excursionists were quartered at the different hotels, and after dining the remainder of the day was passed in visiting the springs and other points of

interest. In the evening a reception and hop was given at the Arlington and Hot Springs hotels.

The party returned to Malvern next day, and started thence to Arkadelphia, where a barbecue dinner had been spread and awaited us. Returning to the train, the party, accompanied by a number of ladies and gentlemen of Arkadelphia, went a few miles southward to the cotton-fields, where some time was spent in gathering information and picking cotton, after which the train returned to Arkadelphia.

Friday evening, October 1st, the train started northward, and arrived at Little Rock next morning. After breakfast the writer joined the eastward-bound party over the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad, arriving at Forrest City about three P. M. A couple of hours were passed in driving into the surrounding country, where is found some of the finest farming land in the State. The party returned to Little Rock Sunday morning, and thence started northward, arriving in St. Louis about seven o'clock.

The excursion throughout was a most pleasant affair, was well managed, afforded all participants excellent opportunities for acquiring information, and was unanimously voted a success.

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## FROM THE "SUNDAY MORNING VOICE," CLEVELAND.

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GEORGE F. MARSHALL, CORRESPONDENT.

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The editorial excursion proved one of the most enjoyable of the season. It proves to our hesitating and doubting people that the natural and adopted sons of Arkansas have a wonderful heart for generous liberality. Upon the arrival of the excursion train at Little Rock each grave and venerable editor was shown to his carriage and driven to the various private houses where they were assigned. Your representative had the honor to fall into the hands of Mr. Loughborough, and left no cause for Mrs. Loughborough to regret that we did not pay proper respect to her sumptuous repast. And then we "did" Little Rock in the shades of the declining sun, driving up and down, hither and yonder, where all points of interest were clearly pointed out to us, and the beautiful city was interlaced with the tracks of our carriage, and a happy day closed with one of the grandest banquets ever beheld by him who banqueted on your account.

You may depend that some one has been telling wrong stories about these men of Arkansas. So far, there could not well be a more honorable set of men, or men of more intelligence, than those we have met. They greet their Northern brothers with a hearty good will, and have fairly become reconciled

to the things that are, and express a determination to bring out all the hidden resources of this great and growing State. All they need is men and money, and Arkansas will take rank with the best. She is full of rich mineral, and has a soil and climate equal to any.

I had supposed that the genuine native would go for a Northerner as soon as he smelled him out, bowie-knife and revolver, and all such, but I could not be more badly mistaken. Just come down and look at them once, and you will be astonished at their deportment. They are just like any good specimens of humanity, only a vast improvement upon the average. They are determined to bring Arkansas up to her proper standard.

We pass through a wild and new region from the time we strike the State, on the Iron Mountain Railroad, until within say 50 miles of Little Rock, when the gay and bright cotton-bolls glisten in the sun, and make quite an attractive field of beauty and value—the first pod or boll of cotton your representative ever beheld in its native soil. They look like rows of yearling raspberries, but for the vast quantity of bursted pods of pure white down, like large snow-flakes interspersed—and that is cotton. All along the line of railway for many miles above Little Rock, the stations, which are quite numerous, are surrounded with huge bales of cotton. Many of our sage editors from the North had never seen the like before. Along the railway corn is seen in many places among the slashes or girdlings, growing to a great height. Huge ears were brought to the cars by curious excursionists, which even astonished the natives from Egypt.

Boxes of native Arkansas wines were broken along the entire line, and many a bottle was unstoppered and drained and pronounced good. Just let me say that I have not told enough about that banquet upon the evening of our arrival at the capital of the State. There was no stint about it: everything that you could desire to eat and drink was there in the greatest profusion, and the attendance was complete.

Lands are here offered for a mere song, while their capabilities are truly wonderful. It is quite singular that they have not been sought for heretofore, but the unfortunate State has had heaps of misfortune since the war; but she is looking up bravely now. The spirit of enterprise has got a good tight hold of her people, and they are working things up rapidly to a point of usefulness. Look at the railway she has put through and is now actively putting into operation. The St. Louis & Iron Mountain Railroad is one of their greatest arteries, of great value and need to the State, and she has been doing her best to bring the State to her proper standard. The old order to the young man to "go west" should be changed to a 45 degree order, and it should be, "young man, go southwest."

We took our sleeping-cars, waiting for the party to do all the banqueting they desired at Concordia Hall last evening, and went to sleep, and when well asleep an engine was hitched on and we were drawn down to Malvern, a town of some moment, 45 miles below or south of Little Rock. Here we changed cars for a narrow-gauge road, in a rapid state of construction, running from Malvern to Hot Springs. We had a bumping 18 miles to the Springs, in hacks

of all sorts and over a road that hundreds of invalids can testify to the ups and downs of—a busy trip to these now famous hot springs, but it was worth all it has cost. Here we find the most remarkable set of springs in this wide world; they have the reputation that no other waters have, and it is a simple matter of history that scores and hundreds have been permanently cured by those astounding waters. Right out of the clefts of the rocks gush hot waters of wonderful magnetic properties, that appear to take the rheumatism right out of a person if he can bathe and drink the water. The town is crushed in among the hills, and about 50 hot springs come bubbling out of the rocks, having a temperature of 140 to 160 degrees Fahrenheit. I have bathed in and drank of the magnetic waters, and feel like a flash of chain lightning, so to speak, and I shall be thundering back over the rugged road a new creature to-morrow. Close by a hot spring comes a cold one of quite different properties, an iron spring, or water strong with an iron taste; then there is a spring which has a trace of arsenic, containing just enough of that property to take the freckles and tan and unnatural dark color which sometimes takes hold of a person's face. Women come here spotted all over, and go away very elegant beauties, at least I have good authority for all this, and now I am afraid the hotels will be overrun with people of freckles, if they hanker to have them removed.

The excursion party, upon reaching Little Rock, was treated to a most elegant and substantial banquet. It was observed by all who had a chance to see that there was no spare room on the tables; plates and platters and dishes were crowding each other from one extreme to the other, and every dish was heaped in lavish pyramids of edibles that could be so conformed; while at about every individual plate was not only a bottle of their superb native wine, but the wired and foiled corks of a companion bottle to each of these unmistakably announced the presence of imperial champagne.

Every one ate their sufficiency, and they drank a little coffee, no water, and immensely of champagne, and then the speeches were never more appropriate, never better received. It was a happy occasion. To detail the remarks would make this epistle far more elegant, but it would spread it beyond your permitted limit. The speech of welcome was most apt and to the purpose; it was the assuring voice of a true son of Arkansas that we were heartily welcome to their State, that all their local trouble was at an end, that utmost peace prevailed, that the people everywhere were using all their power to build up all the lost prestige of the State, that all were contented with the administration of their State government, and he invited every one to come and look into the resources abounding on all hands, hoping that by these means people will be induced to come to Arkansas and settle, bringing with them all the means they have at command to make the State what she is entitled to be—inferior to none in the Union.

Here is what Arkansas has to offer: A soil unsurpassed; a climate mild and healthful; a people with no hostile differences of opinion; mountains filled with minerals; valleys with far-reaching navigable rivers; an eastern border swept by the Mississippi; western bounds reaching to the fertile Indian Territory; a

soil and climate ample for cotton ; a State equal to any for producing the cereals ; springs which have more living witnesses of their healing properties than any others in the world. And, not last nor least, they can produce better wine than all France or Italy.

These are what Arkansas offers to the whole world. For some cause, this great State, vast in resources, has been measurably overlooked by the people who go out into new fields. She lies where the eye does not appear to catch a glimpse of her while looking over the map. People have gone elsewhere and passed by this gem, not knowing that she has the best that any State can offer in all the elements that a prosperous State needs.

After midnight that banqueting party broke up and silently stole to their couches in the Pullman cars, and after the last man had tucked himself away an engine drew the excursion party to Malvern, where they got their sleep out by breakfast time, when, after partaking of a refreshing breakfast, set out on flat cars upon the new portion of the Hot Springs narrow-gauge railroad, headed for those famous waters. The chronics and rheumatics that were distributed among the wayward editors was not much, but the spring was all-important to be beheld. Perhaps eight or ten miles of road had been passed over, when our train dashed backwards through the forest, up and down grades, and winding through the hills, making every particular hair raise hideously, and arrived at the last laid rail, and here were a score of teams, with all sorts of vehicles. The greedy Bohemians went for the best appointed conveyances, and for five miles there never was a wilder set of bumped editors on this continent. It was a newly-traveled road, and the managers desiring to exhibit as much of the railway as possible, had taken this route as the most desirable. We had good attendance—vanguards of horsemen all along the line to help, if needed ; and I think it well to say that I never saw a more beautiful sight than the one where we dashed down the steepest and roughest bit of this mountain than to see our horsemen, with the stately Rector mounted on his noble gray, cautiously standing by the road-side until every wayward editor had passed the dangerous cliff. I thought well of that tall son of Arkansas.

It was a day of jubilee when that dusty cavalcade drove into the village of the spring, and some who knew nothing of the coming thought it a traveling circus with tents. The party were settled at the hotel, and many were astonished, when they came to take a cool wash, to find that all the pitchers had red-hot water in them. We had not been seated at our hotel when a card of invitation to a hop at the Arlington was received. We went, and you can place your hard-money dollar in a wager that the most fashionable of your Northern hops could not make a better display of fashion or beauty. I speak not here of the dowdy and dusty editors, but of the young and beautiful ladies. It was a grand success, and every one voted it so.

By some means Mr. Loughborough inveigled small squad after small squad into private rooms, and there was many a bottle of native Scuppernong broken, and its contents emptied with many a smack of happy and contented lips.

It is proverbial that the cuttings from these grape stalks have long since gone

to France, and have become the desirable grape of that well-posted land in things elegant and palatable.

That party arose betimes upon the following morning, and after a long delay and a good breakfast, set out for their return. We got well back to the narrow-gauge at a more accessible point, and back to Malvern in due time. It was in the plan to dash down to the borders of Texas, taking a look at the noble cotton-fields on the route. But we were invited to take part in an old-time barbecue at Arkadelphia, where the men and women of the town gave us a hearty welcome. I think those hungry editors ate about a yoke of oxen, a large stye of pigs and a drove of sheep, judging from what was on the ground when we entered there, and subtracting what was left when we went out of the field.

From thence we took a large number of Arkadelphians and steamed down the line towards Texas, when we came abreast of a plantation, alive with men and negroes picking cotton. The entire party of Northern editors swarmed out upon that cotton-field and beheld a new vision, that of picking cotton. All were engaged in the work, from the little piccaninnies to the great big darkey. I could not but note the style of dress which many of these little fellows sported in; it was simple in the extreme, and you could behold the rich black skin beneath in spots, indeed in quite sizeable spots. Then away beyond that clump of trees comes up a happy chorus from another band of cotton-pickers; it was sweet music, and we all wanted more of that sort.

It grew dark, and the planter kindly gave any one permission to pull up any cotton plants they chose to take home, and about every one picked out his plant, and the baggage car was strewn with this great staple of Arkansas, intended to be taken far North to astonish many a person who had never seen the like in this section or elsewhere.

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## FROM THE "TOLEDO COMMERCIAL."

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F. J. OBLINGER, CORRESPONDENT.

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At three o'clock in the afternoon of Thursday, September 30, the editorial excursionists reached Hot Springs, and after dinner and rest, rambled over the huge bluffs that hem in the city, drank of the bubbling hot waters, and "took in" everything of interest in drives up and down the valley.

The city is full of life and bustle, with all the vim and energy of a thriving Western town. It is snugly situated in a valley, which is 600 feet above tide-water, according to recent surveys, and hemmed in by mountains on either side, 400 feet above the valley, or 1,000 feet above tide-water. A clear, beautiful mountain stream from 20 to 30 feet wide, commences at the head of

the valley and traverses its entire length. Through the town this is almost entirely walled in with stone, and is spanned at intervals with substantial bridges, thus affording easy access from one locality to another. A street railway runs almost the entire length of the place, and with the numerous bathing-houses, and well-conducted hotels, the metropolitan facilities afforded visitors in this mountain retreat is truly a matter of pleasing surprise.

The population of the place is estimated at about 4,000, and there are probably as many more visitors from all parts of the country, attracted thither by the health-imparting properties of the renowned Hot Springs. There are several first-class hotels.

#### THE HOT SPRINGS.

Of the many phenomena to be found on the American continent, these springs may be ranked among the most remarkable. They are rapidly becoming celebrated on account of the wonderful medicinal properties they possess, and of the many remarkable cures they have effected among some of the most excruciating ills that human flesh is heir to. They will not allay the stings of remorse, or the qualms of a guilty conscience, but they possess in a remarkable degree many of the virtues which are attributed to that fabled fountain of youth which Ponce de Leon so long and patiently searched for. All the water coming from the mountain on the east side of the valley is hot, and that from the west mountain is cold. On every side there are evidences of volcanic action from the fissures made, by which the hot water flows rapidly and abundantly at the rate of 334 gallons per minute, or 480,990 gallons every 24 hours.

A reception was given in the evening at the Arlington House. At an early hour the following morning the entire party bid adieu to Hot Springs, and by stage and the narrow-gauge railroad, reached Malvern about three o'clock in the afternoon.

#### ARKADELPHIA.

We reached Arkadelphia, 22 miles south of Malvern, about five o'clock. Here was provided for our entertainment an old-fashioned barbecue. After this we visited the extensive cotton-fields several miles south of Arkadelphia, occupying the celebrated black lands of the State. Here cotton yields from a bale to a bale and a half per acre, and the soil is as productive in corn, wheat, potatoes and fruits as it is in cotton.

In the evening we returned to Arkadelphia, where a public reception was had at the Reames House. Much good feeling prevailed, and the tenor of all the speeches was that we are all one people, and the hope was expressed that the two sections of the country would be mutually benefited by this interchange of good will.

Much fatigued, we repaired to the sleeping coaches, and at daylight found ourselves at Little Rock.

#### LITTLE ROCK & FORT SMITH RAILWAY.

This road is completed about 120 miles from Little Rock, and passes through some of the most beautiful valleys in the West, all along the Arkansas river.

Along this railway many thriving little villages are springing up and some of the best lands that can be found anywhere can be purchased at prices ranging from \$1.50 to \$40 per acre. The best of timber land can be had at \$4.

#### AT SPADRA,

ten or fifteen miles beyond Clarksville, we stopped and made a coal mine exploration. By means of a steam elevator our party went down the shaft, 45 feet below the surface of the earth, and then wandered off into a tunnel, in a stooping posture, probably a quarter of a mile, emerging from the subterranean region on the bank of a beautiful little stream. In the shape of coal, old mother earth has untold wealth in her keeping in this region, and they were taking out coal in large quantities. This coal, too, is of a superior quality, it is remarkably clean, and in burning produces no flying cinders, is almost entirely consumed, and the residue is white ashes.

#### ON THE RETURN,

we found at Russellville a superb supper and banquet, and after the usual speeches, resolutions, &c., the party again boarded the train and reached Little Rock far in the night. This virtually ended the excursion.

#### ARKANSAS.

The State has now a thoroughly established government, and peace, good order, good feeling and security prevail. The new Constitution guarantees equal rights and privileges to all persons. Taxation for State purposes can not be made to exceed one per centum of the assessed value of the property. The support and maintenance of free schools is made obligatory.

The lands of Arkansas cannot be surpassed in fertility by any on the continent. Much of its soil has been under cultivation year after year for half a century past, and the vitality of the soil has not perceptibly diminished. The rich loam of its black and prairie lands ranges in depth from 20 to 50 feet—a fact which is almost unparalleled in any other portion of the country. Wheat yields, in many instances, as high as 50 bushels per acre, and will weigh five pounds more to the bushel than Northern wheat. In the rich bottom-lands cotton yields from a bale to a bale and a half per acre. Wheat, rye, oats, barley, potatoes, hay, tobacco, and all the products of the Northern and Middle States, yield here in rich abundance, and her climate is such that two, three, and sometimes four crops are raised on the same ground in the same season.

#### FRUITS

in variety and abundance grow here to perfection. Apples, pears, peaches, cherries, apricots, figs, grapes, and the smaller fruits, grow luxuriantly throughout the State. They are remarkable, too, for their excellent quality, fine flavor, and the perfection of their growth. Here they develop early and reach a perfection not to be attained in the Northern States. It is no uncommon thing to see apples ranging from 16 to 22 ounces each, and pears from 20 to 30 ounces, while



peaches grow to mammoth proportions and wonderful perfection. In fruit culture it is certainly destined to become the Garden State of America, rivaling the far-famed fruitage of the Golden State on the Pacific coast. Old residents of Arkansas, gentlemen of truth and candor, say there has not been a failure in the fruit crop of that State for the past 30 years.

Grapes grow here to perfection. In variety and fine flavor they certainly cannot be excelled in the far-famed vine-lands of Europe. Indeed, the much boasted grape of southern France and Italy is a native of Arkansas, and was transplanted from that State at a very early day. The manufacture of wine, although yet in its infancy, will eventually become an important matter in the industry of the State, and no finer wines are produced anywhere than now emanate from several wine-presses in the Ouachita valley.

#### TIMBER.

Probably the finest varieties of timber that can be found anywhere in the United States are here. Her forests possess a wealth as yet unknown. There are no less than 18 species of oak and 10 of walnut and hickory. Ash of various kinds, locust of both kinds pecan, sycamore, cypress, wild cherry, mulberry, gum, beech, holly, poplar, sassafras, persimmon, maple, pine, cedar and elm are not only found, but abound in quantity and quality equal to any demand, and are admirably adapted for all kinds of manufacturing purposes.

#### MINERALS.

Perhaps no better idea can be had of the mineral wealth of the State than the following extract from the report of the Commissioner of the United States Land Office. In speaking of Arkansas he says:

"It possesses also great mineral wealth in the bituminous coal and ores of zinc, iron and silver-bearing galena. The mineral wealth lies in vast beds of anthracite, cannel and bituminous coal, iron, lead, manganese, gypsum, zinc, salt and building stone; the lead ore containing silver in quantities sufficient to defray the expenses of working; the zinc product ranking next to that of New Jersey, and the gypsum greater in quantity than in all the other States of the Union."

Certainly in no State are stronger inducements offered for the development of mineral wealth, or with so large a probability of remunerative success, as in Arkansas.

The people invite Northern emigration, and stand ready to give a hearty welcome and a hospitable greeting to all who may come. The asperities engendered by the war of the rebellion have passed away, and those who go to Arkansas to make it their future home, and take with them the necessary pluck, enterprise and capital to assist in the development and prosperity of the State, will nowhere in the United States find a more generous-hearted, whole-souled, hospitable people to bid them welcome.

## FROM THE "ELYRIA REPUBLICAN."

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W. H. FISHER, CORRESPONDENT.

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From general report, we had expected to find a lawless set of people inhabiting Arkansas, but were exceedingly surprised to meet with straightforward, honest, hard-working, law-abiding citizens, wherever it became our lot to stop; and by strict attention to their business, they will soon lift from the State the name she has borne since the war. All they need is help in the shape of good, healthy, industrious people to clear the mighty forests, till the vast amount of rich soil, and unearth the boundless treasures of mineral resources, and one day she will stand second to no State in the Union. The Indians, who are just over the line, are friendly, and hundreds of them come to Arkansas every year to pick cotton, etc.

## THE SOIL,

after leaving St. Louis, is rather light, but, passing through the State, becomes more rich and heavy. Not much prairie land is found east of Little Rock, but upon striking a distance of 20 miles west, it is splendid rolling country to Fort Smith, abounding with luxuriant pasturage, and capable of raising an endless amount of fruit and produce, grain and cotton. Very little rocky soil is found except in the valleys.

## THE CLIMATE

of Arkansas is mild and salubrious. Sudden changes of temperature are less frequent than in the Eastern States in the same latitude, and cases of sun-stroke and headache from heat are rarely known, as in the summer it is no warmer here than it is in the Northern States, and in the winter the thermometer rarely marks lower than 10 degrees below zero.

## TIMBER.

Arkansas abounds in valuable timber in all sections, and the revenues from it are of the first importance, constituting the base of great wealth yet to be realized in the improvement of the State. The yellow pine forests predominate, covering about one-tenth of the area of the State. The pine grows principally on the uplands, attains to great size, and is very valuable. Several varieties of oak abound and attain large proportions. Cabinet woods occur in abundance, of which the black walnut, cherry and maple are the most valuable. Besides these varieties there are the ash, hickory, gum, beech, pecan, sycamore, elm, cottonwood, cedar and black locust, with an undergrowth of spice, pawpaw, hazel, cane and large grape-vines. Arkansas has untold wealth on her surface, in live growth of forest trees, sufficient to make her lumber interest of great

importance. All that is required is the hand of the settler to develop this wealth, and then Arkansas can supply her less favored neighbors of the West with cheap building and other material.

#### WATER.

Arkansas is beyond doubt the best watered State in the Union, having nearly 3,000 miles of inland navigable waters, so distributed that they intersect nearly every portion of the State, and afford steamboat facilities the greater portion of the year

#### ITS MINERAL RESOURCES

are beyond estimation — coal, iron, lead, zinc and associate metals, together with marble, gypsum, salt, hone and whet-stone, granite, etc. In speaking of coal mines, it may be well to notice that passing from Little Rock to Fort Smith several coal mines were passed and one explored, which proved to be an excellent quality of anthracite coal; also Col. A. P. Curry's bank, located 116 miles from Fort Smith, in which they are at present working a vein four feet and two inches in thickness, of the best coal for blacksmith and steam purposes. At Hot Springs a clear crystal is found, which, when worked up into jewelry, cannot be distinguished by an ordinary judge from the diamond. They are found in all shades, together with agate and imitation of amethyst, which are worked up at the Springs, and present a beautiful appearance.

#### PRODUCTS.

Cotton has been the staple product for many years, but of late corn and wheat have received considerable attention, and are found to yield a better income to the farmer.

Corn yields from 30 to 50 bushels to the acre, and grows to an enormous height. Stalks often measure 12 feet and ears 18 inches.

Potatoes grow abundantly, and as the season is long, have plenty of time to mature, while the sweet potato is "right at home" in Arkansas, and have been shown to us weighing five pounds.

Peaches and pears are almost a sure crop, and are of excellent flavor and large size.

The woods abound with many varieties of wild grapes, which are gathered and made into excellent wine.

Gardening seem to be favorite pursuit, and indeed it might be, for at Lewisburg we were shown a cucumber weighing 64 pounds—which beat any watermelon we have ever seen; while a specimen of Japanese peas, growing 200 bushels to the acre, were also on exhibition.

Stock-raising will eventually become one of the leading occupations, as the winter is short enough to admit of their running at large the entire season, while the lands abound with excellent grasses.

## FROM THE "CONSTITUTION," ELYRIA.

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B. F. MANN, CORRESPONDENT.

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Arkansas has a glorious future, and all she now wants is capital to develop her resources. Extensive and rich coal deposits have been found, and some of them developed, while others are but waiting the advent of the capitalist to render up their stores of dormant wealth. The coal taken from the mines has proved to be of the best quality. Two mines are now in successful operation on the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad. Iron ore has been found in many portions of the State, and in some instances, as we saw at Spadra, on the Fort Smith road, in connection with coal. Arkansas has ample means of transportation, having 3,500 miles of navigable rivers, and some half-dozen railroads, which connect with all the principal roads of the South and Southwest, as also with the Northern and Western roads, at St. Louis. Arkansas is not only unequalled in her mineral deposits, but is a rich field for the patrons of husbandry, "where the harvest is great, and the laborers few." The golden stream of Pactolus is ready to flow into every farmer's pocket. With very poor farming the wheat crop this year is far above the average in the Northwest. All the small grains can be cultivated in this State, with less labor and expense than in the North. Beside the products already enumerated, T. B. Mills & Co., land agents at Little Rock, have on exhibition at the St. Louis Fair specimens of the grains and grasses that can be successfully grown in the State, and "as seeing is believing, and feeling the naked truth," we can say that we examined some of them, and found wheat six feet high, with six-inch heads, well filled; oats, seven feet high, with heads 18 inches long; red clover that cut four tons to the acre; timothy, five and a half feet high, yielding four tons to the acre; red top, four feet, high, giving three tons to the acre; blue grass, four and a half feet high; orchard grass, five feet high, and yielding three tons to the acre; Hungarian grass, four feet high, from the second crop this year; cornstalks, one 19 feet high, and another with twelve ears on it, five of which were 11 inches long. Apples, plums, apricots, peaches, pears, and other fruits, all reach their highest perfection with but little attention. Timber is plentiful, and of all varieties—ash, hickory, gum, beech, sycamore, cottonwood, cedar, and black locust, together with an abundance of pine and oak. The State is well watered, springs and creeks abounding in every county. The climate is mild and pleasant; the winters are very short; they have no bleak winds, no sudden changes of temperature, no deep snows. Plowing may be done in every month of the year; garden crops are planted early, potatoes and peas often in February. Vegetables are plenty in market in April, and last until Christmas, when their 60 days of winter begins.

We do not hesitate to declare our firm conviction that Arkansas is now one of the most inviting of our States, for agricultural, mining, and manufacturing pursuits. Ye lovers of a genial clime; ye husbandmen who desire to feast your eyes upon full garners; ye seekers after good society and kind neighbors—go to Arkansas. O, Arkansas! Yours is a grand and promising future! Who dare gainsay the glory of thy greatness? Who can conceive of the immensity of thy wealth, which now lies hidden in the bosom of Mother Earth? This is not a paradise, “for there has been no paradise found since Eden was lost;” but, reader, go and see for yourself, you will not find our picture overdrawn. Rich lands, good water, a genial clime, and a hearty welcome await you.

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### FROM THE “AMERICAN PATRON,” FINDLAY.

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J. K. BARND, EDITOR.

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In minerals, timber, and agricultural productions, Arkansas will equal, if not surpass, any other portion of our country. Throughout the length and breadth of the State, so far as we were able to traverse it, we find a mild and salubrious climate, and we were informed by the citizens that sudden changes of temperature are very uncommon. The days are warm, and the evenings cool and pleasant—so much so, in fact, that at any season of the year it is necessary for comfort to have a plentiful supply of covering; the heat of the day is not enervating, from the fact that at nearly all hours there are pleasant currents of air sweeping through the valleys and over the mountains and prairies. We did not suffer as much with the heat at 80 degrees while in the State as we would farther north when the thermometer marked but 60 degrees. All in all, we would say, as far as climate is concerned, it is a most delightful country.

#### HEALTH.

It is a remarkably healthy district, and malignant diseases are almost entirely unknown. In the bottom-lands the people are more or less subject to chills and fever, but in the more elevated portions cases of this kind are rare. Pulmonary complaints are said to be almost unknown, except in case of persons who come into the State already afflicted.

#### THE SOIL

is very fertile and productive, and embraces almost every variety known, comprising bottoms and hill-sides, the greater portions of which are subject to fair cultivation.

#### TIMBER.

We do not know exactly what to say in regard to timber, for here it abounds in almost inexhaustible quantities and varieties—oak, walnut, cherry, maple,

ash, hickory, gum, cottonwood, beech, elm, cedar, holly, and particularly yellow pine, which covers a vast proportion of the State. This timber is easily accessible, and well distributed throughout the State.

#### PRODUCTS.

Almost if not altogether everything grown North will do well here; in some parts, of course, better than others. Corn, wheat, rye, barley, oats, grasses of various kinds, potatoes and vegetables of all kinds. The great staple, however, has heretofore been cotton.

Fruit of all kinds does exceedingly well. Apples, peaches, plums, pears, grapes, and in fact all the small fruits are grown to great perfection. As a sample of what can be grown in Arkansas we have brought home the following specimens: oats, six feet six inches high; Hungarian, millet, timothy, red-top, and other grasses, in proportion; fine samples of different grades and qualities of wheat and flour; corn, single ears of which weigh from one pound to one pound four ounces, and measure from nine to twelve inches in length, picked at random; apples weighing from 10 to 21 ounces each. The great beauty of their fruit is that it is almost perfect, worms being almost unknown in apples. We were unable to bring other specimens, but our friends can see what we have by calling at our office, unless they wait until we are tempted to devour our fruit samples. In

#### MINERAL RESOURCES

Arkansas is equally rich, but we have only space to give a partial list of what is found within her borders, among which may be named iron, lead, zinc and coal, and other metals associated with each of the above. In many parts of the State are quarries of granite, limestone and freestone. At Hot Springs, and we believe at other points, are great quarries of the finest honestone in the world, which finds a ready market in all parts of this country and Europe.

#### SOCIETY.

We found, upon observation and investigation, that as healthy a state of society exists as can be found in any part of our great country. People are generally noted for their hospitality and liberality, which we saw exhibited almost to a fault. True, in some portions of the State there is a kind of brusqueness which marks the character of the frontiersman, but underneath you will find the milk of human kindness flowing freely. A person is perfectly free in his enjoyment of liberty and the pursuit of happiness in such channels as he may see fit to follow. Life, liberty, happiness, and the pursuit thereof are as secure as in any part of the United States. Persons are as free to express their opinions, whether religious, political, or otherwise, as one could wish, and we can assure any of our friends who may desire to change their location that they will be perfectly free and safe in traveling through any portion of the State of Arkansas.

## CHAPTER XIII.—WISCONSIN.

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FROM THE "MILWAUKEE DAILY COMMERCIAL TIMES."

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W. H. BISHOP, CORRESPONDENT.

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IF THE picture of life and manners in Arkansas depicted in the classic story of the Arkansas Traveler was ever in the slightest degree correct, how greatly have times changed! The Arkansas Traveler, it will be remembered, searched for a lodging-place after a hard day's drive. He came upon a man sitting in the door-way of his log cabin playing on the violin.

"Can I get to stay here all night?" asked the Arkansas traveler.

"You kin git to go to h—l!" said the genial native, continuing his tune.

We have been treated with a cordiality which, as compared with Northern standards, is astonishing. Nothing is held back. No sacrifices of time and convenience are considered too great, and no expressions of warm welcome too extreme. The residents of Arkansas are actuated by a genuine and enthusiastic desire to draw attention to the hitherto neglected resources and attractions of their State, and bring to it if possible the stream of immigration which has hitherto set too much into other channels. We find their hands, their hearts and their houses wide open.

The sensation of the journey for the most of the party was the first sight of

### GROWING COTTON.

An accurate idea of its appearance can be conveyed to those who have not seen it, by comparing it to a field of maple or silver poplar sprouts, three or four feet in height, upon which a sprinkling of heavy snow-flakes has fallen. Arkansas is particularly fortunate in her capacity to raise this most valuable of all crops, and in addition she produces almost all the staples allotted to the temperate zone. Good land yields an average of a bale to the acre. At present prices this would be worth about \$75.

## THE BROOKS-BAXTER TROUBLE.

At a distance we cannot appreciate how perfectly this formidable disturbance was quieted. There seems to be not the slightest rankling or trace of bitterness remaining. The participants are all on the best of terms. Brooks is now postmaster of Little Rock.

## POLITICS.

The old party organizations are wilting away. There are scarcely any longer any Democrats or Republicans. The control is being taken by a young and vigorous element, for which Reform is the proper title. They are disgusted with fraud, violence and extravagance. They have secured peace; now they want to secure economy and honest management in every department.

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FROM THE "MILWAUKEE DAILY NEWS."

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CHARLES JONAS, CORRESPONDENT.

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Some of the leading Republican papers of the North kept up a shameless system of misrepresentation of Southern affairs in order to mislead Northern voters. Mr. H. H. Rottaken, late officer in the Union army, now sheriff of Pulaski county, informed me that we in the North have no conception of the extent to which the rascally misrepresentation in home Republican journals had been carried. As an instance he named a Chicago paper, which at one time asserted that fifteen murders had been committed in Pulaski county, in a single month, from political motives. Mr. Rottaken was sheriff of the county at that very time, and within his knowledge only one murder occurred, and that one had no political signification at all, being the result of a drunken brawl. I could name other instances of the same sort, which I learned from authentic sources, but I must refrain; not to trespass too much upon your space and the reader's patience.

Having had the pleasure of an introduction to Mr. Hadley, late Republican Governor of Arkansas, I had an hour's chat with him, and learned a good many surprising things from that gentleman. Among other things I inquired, "Do you believe, Governor, that the white people of the South would be in favor of a re-establishment of slavery, if that question was put to a vote?"

"NOT ONE IN TEN,"

said Mr. Hadley; "probably not one in a hundred. Such things as slavery, secession and Southern war debts are settled and played out forever, and every-



body knows it. It is all nonsense to say that the success of this or that party, for instance the Democratic party, would ruin the nation. I am a Republican even now, if there is any in this State; but, I say it frankly, that in my opinion the old Republican party should go down for many reasons. I do not desire office, as I proved by my refusal of a re-nomination to the Governorship, and my opinions are not influenced by any hankering after political favors."

I give the Governor's words as near as I can. He said, among other things, he had no real difficulties during his administration; sometimes Northern demagogues tried to create trouble where there was none. Once a special correspondent of a great New York paper (I believe he named the *Tribune*), together with the United States Marshal, tried to incite the negroes near Memphis to kick up a row, in order to have an item so much desired by

#### THE NORTHERN REPUBLICAN PRESS.

From all the information I could gather in Arkansas, it is evident that peace and quiet reigns throughout the State; that life and property are just as safe as in any Northern State; that the Southern people desire emigration from the North, not of carpet-baggers who come like buzzards to feed upon a carcass, but of honest farmers and business men, to help develop the resources of the State by their labor, energy and enterprise, and to reap the legitimate fruits of their own industry; that such emigrants from the North, irrespective of their political opinions, will find a hearty welcome among the Southern people, who, in point of hospitality and open-heartedness, have indeed no peers upon the entire American continent. I know all this from Northern people who settled in Arkansas since the war, and who are generally doing remarkably well; many of them, in fact, are rapidly growing rich, which is especially true of numerous business men in the city of Little Rock.

#### BUSINESS PROSPERITY DEPENDS ON THE SOUTH.

Now the full development of the immense resources of the Sunny South is in the interest of the whole nation; nothing can do more towards establishing a favorable balance of foreign trade than the increase of Southern production, and the productiveness of the great Southern States is practically unlimited. Consequently, everything that tends to perpetuate mistrust and dissension in the South, to foster hatred and jealousy between North and South, is unpatriotically Republican—in a word, treasonable. I do not wish to speak as a partisan, but simply as a citizen who has the good of this great country at heart, as a man whose life and family are indissolubly linked with the fortunes of this nation; and I say deliberately, that men and papers seeking to perpetuate the ascendancy of the Republican party by creating discord, nourishing sectional hatred and outrageously misrepresenting the feelings, aims and desires of the Southern people, are, consciously or unconsciously, nothing less than

#### PUBLIC ENEMIES AND TRAITORS.

Messrs. T. B. Mills & Co., publishers of the *Spirit of Arkansas*, at Little Rock, are probably doing more for the material and intellectual development of

Arkansas than any other similar agency in the State. I take pleasure in commending their valuable publication to all citizens of Wisconsin who wish to acquaint themselves with the condition of things in Arkansas, especially with a view to making it their future home. The rich lands and mild climate, the sunny sky, beautiful scenery and varied productions of Arkansas all combine to make that State one of the most desirable locations for the settler. An energetic and enterprising Northerner is almost sure to grow rich as a producer of cotton or wheat, raiser of stock or fruit, as manufacturer or business man of any kind.

Persons suffering from rheumatism, neuralgia or other affliction, will be cured by the

#### WATERS OF HOT SPRINGS,

to which place a narrow-gauge road is being built, and will be finished before Christmas, from Malvern, on the main southern line; and they will find the Waverly the coziest and most comfortable hotel the glorious Southern sun ever shone upon. There is hardly any winter to speak of in Arkansas, and for many of our Northern people it would be more desirable to spend the winter months at Hot Springs, by reason of the unrivaled curing qualities of its waters, than anywhere else.

## CHAPTER XIV.—PENNSYLVANIA.

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FROM THE "PITTSBURGH ADVANCE."

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WM. R. NEWMYER, EDITOR.

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**E**NERGETIC men with some means is all that Arkansas wants to make her one of the first States in the Union. Her lands are fertile, paying any farmer a handsome return, who is not too lazy to work; her lands are rich in coal, iron and other ores. All that now is needed is energy to develop enterprise, to determine ways and means, with a reasonable amount of capital invested, which must surely make handsome returns.

### THE OBJECT OF THIS EXCURSION

has been explained before, so we need add little, if any, more in this connection. The benefits of making such a tour of exploration, which have been so clearly demonstrated by the experience of the editors all along the route, will spread throughout the most remote sections of the Northwestern and Northeastern States, and the results to the country will be fully realized in coming years, when the State of Arkansas shall have been granted that position in the Union to which her natural resources justly and truly entitle her.

### IRON ORE.

Arkansas can, with full truth, boast of her rich deposits of iron ore; the hematite, magnetic, specular, and other varieties, are found in seemingly inexhaustible quantities. Other

### MISCELLANEOUS ORES,

such as lead, zinc, manganese and associate metals, together with marble, gypsum, salt, slate, limestone, granite and marl, are found in localities as varied as these valuable articles of trade exist in quantity.

## COTTON

is the great staple. The cotton county embraces about 10,000 square miles, or 6,400,000 acres, a part of which has never been placed under cultivation. We were told that the cotton crop for 1871 was estimated at 300,000 bales, worth from \$75 to \$100 per bale.

## GRAIN AND VEGETABLES,

such as corn, wheat, oats, rye and barley, Irish and sweet potatoes, peas, turnips, &c., are successfully raised, being superior in almost every sense to the same articles produced by the States further north.

## FRUITS

are grown in an over-abundance. It is seldom that this product fails. Our Northern apple, peach, pear and cherry flourish in this State, along with many fruits belonging to the tropics.

## COAL.

Of this valuable article we would speak at considerable length, did space permit. The coal fields embrace an area of 12,000 square miles, or 7,680,000 acres. The valley of the Arkansas river, in which section the most extensive coal mining has been done, contains beds that are said to run from three to ten feet in thickness; the coal is somewhat similar to that found near Cumberland, in the State of Maryland, near the boundary line. It is an excellent article of fuel for manufacturing and household purposes.

## RAILROADS.

The railroads passing through the most fertile portions of the State are the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern, the Memphis and Little Rock, and the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroads. The grants made by the Legislature to these roads and their branches, aggregate several millions of acres. Most liberal terms are offered by the officers to all who are prospecting for a homestead, both in the matter of land and transportation.

## A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR PARTY.

It has seldom been our lot to come in contact with so many genial fellow-travelers, to whom, one week before, we were perfect strangers. We enjoyed this social tour through the Southwest, and feel anxious, with our fellow-editors, to express sincere thanks to those gentlemen who first designed the trip for us. These gentlemen are referred to elsewhere, and we will only add that we shall not soon forget them. To the kind people of Little Rock, Hot Springs and Arkadelphia we also tender our thanks for many kindnesses received at their hands. Special mention is due the good people of Lewisburg, Conway county, for their reception of us on our way up the Fort Smith road; and very special reference

should be made to Col. W. B. Gibson, the "wild Irishman of Arkansas," as styles himself. To him we are indebted for much information concerning the country through which we traveled. I have the most pleasant recollections of my colleagues *en route*—Col. J. M. Jackson, of Peru; Judge G. W. Collings, of Rockville; Maj. C. M. Brooke, of Plymouth, and Dr. H. C. Coates, of Valparaiso, Indiana. We have met and we have parted; but we shall not soon forget our trip to the South. We terminate this article with a grateful reference to Hon. J. M. Loughborough, of the Iron Mountain Railroad; Messrs. T. B. Mills & Co., publishers; Col. W. D. Slack, our whole-souled friend, and Col. T. Hartman, of the Fort Smith road. As a Northern man, my heartfelt wishes are with the people of Arkansas, for the future welfare and improvement of their pleasant State.

# CHAPTER XV.

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## CLIMATOLOGY, ETC., OF ARKANSAS

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By GEO. W. LAWRENCE, M.D., HOT SPRINGS.

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### HISTORICAL.



ARKANSAS formed a part of the Louisiana Territory. It was originally settled by the French in 1670. It was ceded in 1803 by France to the United States. According to Rev. F. Banks (reported in his *Universal Geography*, published during the reign of His Majesty George III.), as exhibited by a map executed by T. Bowen, Geographer, folio 493, agreeable to treaty of 1784, Louisiana then extended from the 26th to the 40th degree north latitude. It was bounded on the north by the territory of the (wild) Indians, east by Florida, south by the Gulf of Mexico, and west by New Mexico, which is now known as Texas. In 1720 the French succeeded in making a few settlements beside the "Isle of Dauphine" (Mobile), 80 leagues east of the mouth of the Mississippi river. These in part were ceded to England by treaty of 1763; afterwards by England (together with Florida), it was ceded to Spain, according to treaty of 1783, including the rivers Mississippi, St. Francis, Black, and the Mobile, Isle of New Orleans, at the mouth of the Mississippi, and the "town of New Orleans," then the capital of Louisiana; both are names originally given by the French.

The early territorial history of Arkansas is as meagre in matters of general interest, and barren in material properly belonging to it, as are the circumstances of its growth and development at a later period. Legends and traditions have in the past, with few exceptions, served the part of history. Since 1803, when the territory of Louisiana was acquired by purchase from the French Republic, it has been separated, and afforded important political territorial divisions. Arkansas remained a part of the Louisiana Territory until

1812, when the State of Louisiana was admitted into the Union. It was created a Territory March 2, 1819. Afterward it became part of the Missouri Territory. Missouri was admitted as a State into the Union March 2, 1821, and Arkansas was left alone, as a separate Territory, organized as such with its present limits. It was admitted into the Union as a State June 15, 1836.

Arkansas lies between the parallels of 33 deg. and 36 deg. 30 min. north latitude, and extends through five degrees of longitude, from 89 deg. 40 min. to 94 deg. 42 min. west longitude. It is bounded on the north by the State of Missouri, on the east by the St. Francis and Mississippi rivers, on the south by the States of Louisiana and Texas, and on the west by the State of Texas and the Indian Territory. The Mississippi river margins the eastern boundary of the State, making a shore-line about 400 miles in extent. The present area of the State is 52,198 square miles, or 33,406,720 acres. The population in 1860 was 435,450. According to the census of 1870 it numbered 485,000. It is computed to be in area one-sixth larger than New York. Arkansas, so favored by nature in latitudinal position, climate, soil, mineral wealth, large tracts of forest, navigable inland and marginal rivers, medicinal and pure flowing springs, possessing, physically, good commercial relations and valuable agricultural advantages—all that is inviting—has been, since its earliest days, overlooked and overleaped generally by emigration.

The hardy adventurers, that desirable class of inhabitants, have turned away from the borders of this unknown division to more rigorous climates. Immigration has not been duly encouraged. The great, growing, powerful West, Northwest and Northeast, even in territorial wilds, were rendered more accessible for exploration and more inviting to emigrants.

#### ACCLIMATION OF RACES.

In the new States, where the population is mostly foreign, or by migration of mixed races, in the different settlements, statistical reports will soon give us a knowledge of the facilities or power of adaptation of the various types of mankind in acclimation, and the relative mortality, compared with the native born, among the different immigrants or settlers in those countries, will add a valuable page—one hitherto unknown to medical climatology. Those from cold, rigorous sections abroad, leaving their native soil for more temperate climates, or from milder regions to colder sections, making great alterations in the change from one region to another, contrary to general supposed laws of health or of climate, will have something to declare of statistical import. In other words, we can ascertain the effects of a new residence, where meteorological vicissitudes are constantly operating, or exercising an influence upon the constitution, different from that of the usual habitation.

#### UTILITY OF RACES.

It is well known that some races of the human family readily overcome the difficulties to be encountered by emigration far better than others, and that those conditions or powers of adaptation have many interesting features for

scientific thought. Acclimation appears to be a physical law that manifests the vital susceptibility, or power of adaptation of the person to antagonize certain atmospheric or climatic impressions. It is well known that certain races of mankind (it is even supposed some of the lower order of the animal kingdom) appear to enjoy advantages over others in the operation or process of acclimation. Some are very susceptible to morbid impressions, whilst others show a surprising degree of insusceptibility or physical hardihood, in fact almost an entire immunity or exemption from disease. The unknown forces that apparently protect or favor races in certain parts of the world should be better understood. If such advantages are really so favorable, proven by statistical facts, we should in all cases, in the early settlement of new countries, select immigrants the best adapted for the peculiarities of climate.

Material for climatic knowledge in America has ever been abundant, but not rapidly utilized, especially in that immense area, the western half of the continent. Only through military posts, an occasional medical report, through surveys, some casual tourist, or an amateur observer, have we even a smattering of the singular blendings of climate. Since the observations of Dr. Forey, brought down to 1831, all the valuable accumulated material has been chiefly embraced in a volume of great interest, published by Lorin Blodget in 1857. The great growth in population, the cultivation of soil, the explorations of that broad expanse of territory west of the Mississippi since that part of early record, showing so many interesting variations, are yet almost entirely wanting as material for statistics.

#### PHYSICAL CLIMATE.

The physical features of a State, the geographical relations of land and water, the general aspect or exposure, are important items in climatology. In the study of climate the general inclinations of a whole country, the aggregate of local exposures, the drainage of the surface, the large number of rivers, bayous, lakes, marshes, and overflowed parts; the prevailing currents of wind; air, journeying under physical laws over the area, are all conditions for investigation. The physical configuration of Arkansas presents great variation of surface. The State is one of the great basin States of the Mississippi on the west, for a distance of three and a half degrees of latitude and five degrees of longitude. The elevated parts of the State commence at the undulations of the surface in the southwestern part, soon developing into foot-hills and mountains of the "Masserne range," and expanding into broad mountain tracts as we course toward the north and east, until we meet the "Ozark Mountains," which, commencing near Little Rock, extend north and westerly beyond the limits of the State. They obtain an elevation of from 1,500 to 2,000 feet. These mountains have been strangely divided into separate ranges. They do not present two distinct chains or divisions. They are simply an intricate blending that belong to the "Ozark group of mountains." In the western division, about the centre of the State, some orological difficulty may be present in placing them all in the same group, from the upheavals, metamorphoses, produced



by more recent violent igneous agency that has made physical alterations. The debatable portion of remarkable elevations and manifestations is more especially found in Polk, Pike, Montgomery and Hot Spring counties.

#### MARGINS OF THE GREAT BASIN AND EMBAYMENT.

It is the elevated part of the State, formed by these mountain ranges, that has made and now makes the strong physical barrier to the great basin. It also margins the great embayment of the gulf section. It has physically, geologically, botanically and climatically almost completely divided the State. It separates the older formations from the later, the mineral wealth of the State from the rich agricultural lands. The rivers of the State, which abound, afford good inland navigation, water power and drainage course from the north, northwest or westerly, in a direction south and easterly, to empty into the Mississippi river. The channels of these rivers, the varying temperature of the waters, the effects of the evaporation from the surface, give avenues for atmospheric circulation. These water and wind channels are coursed by the cold and more rarefied currents of the air from the more elevated mountain regions of the north and northwestern territory, which are found plunging into the interior and southern portions of the State, invited thither by the warm air of the littoral regions of the Gulf of Mexico south of us; and this circulation, so refreshing, gives to the inhabitants the marked peculiarities and advantages in the climate of the State. It is well known that a moderately undulating country is, for health, preferable to one altogether mountainous or flat. Mountainous regions act physically on the climate of a country chiefly by determining the prevailing winds; they may also by their direction oppose all wind currents, the passage of salubrious as well as noxious winds, and thus exercise a corresponding influence upon the atmosphere.

#### PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

The physical features of surface in some parts display marked peculiarities from local surroundings, sometimes from exposure of elevations in the mountainous divisions of the State, so that often within an area of ten miles we find the temperature varying from 4 to 12 deg. Fahr. It is observable that the Arkansas valley about Fort Smith has a peculiarly mild climate, resulting from physical causes, location, surroundings and the nature of the soil. In comparison, a difference of 10 to 15 degrees Fahrenheit in temperature is found between that place and one degree of latitude farther north. It is well known that the seasons between the elevated regions of Washington, Benton and Boone counties, in the northwest, compared with those of Chicot, Drew, and other counties in the southeast part of the State, belonging to the alluvian section, show a remarkable difference. At least a month in the advancement of vegetation is plainly observable in the semi-tropical portion of the southern counties over the northern tier of counties in the State.

We append, from Blodget's Report, the mean temperature of this part of the State, taken at the military post during a period of 12 years. Taking into

consideration the contour of Arkansas, viewing it physically as a State, with its marked elevations, declivities and basin features; the mountain barriers on the west, the altitude of the mountain range in the northern and northwestern part of the State, and extending beyond it in the same direction, we are brought to the conclusion that the low mean of temperature throughout the year, and the peculiarities of seasons, are influenced mainly by their conditions. The pent, walled-up, basin-like collection of air south of the mountain ranges invites currents from the northern elevated regions, producing condensation of vapors, and a great precipitation throughout the year, with refreshing, eddying currents, freely coursing along the aerial dam which modifies and lowers the temperature of the air at certain seasons, greater than that of adjacent States in the same zone of latitude. Arkansas has been greatly favored by nature in territorial characteristics. Nature has been generous in terrestrial endowments. Man alone has been the sluggard, and neglected the advantages offered him. One of the second tier of Gulf States, belonging to a belt of latitudes the most equal and delightful in temperature found in the grand zone of circumference upon our planet, in all the known divisions of the earth—Arkansas, the “Switzerland of America,” has remarkable conditions as one of the interior, we might add *middle*, States of the Federal Union. She is abundantly supplied with navigable rivers, so distributed as to give free access interiorly to all parts of the State. The great boundary on the east is formed by the mighty Mississippi. The St. Francis on the northeast, which rises in southeast Missouri, and flows through the low undulated portions of the northeast, where it intermingles with lakes, bayous and palludal surfaces, is a tributary of the Mississippi. The White river, one of the most charming navigable inland streams on the continent, rises in northwest Arkansas, and leaving the State boundary, flows through the lower southwest counties of Missouri, soon to return again to the State, to greet its affluent, the Black river, which affords from the confluence, almost at all seasons, navigation for a distance of 350 miles.

White river, with its tributaries, gives drainage for a broad expanse of country from the northwest, middle, and southeastern parts of the northern section of the State.

The Arkansas river, one of the largest tributaries of the Mississippi, rises in the mountains of Colorado, and flows easterly for a distance of 2,000 miles to join the Mississippi. White river is an affluent, flowing into it near its mouth. The Arkansas river bisects and drains this entire country; it is navigable entirely across the State, and during high water beyond it, far up into the Indian Territory. The Ouachita, with its tributaries, drains almost the entire State lying south of the Arkansas river, or all that surface lying between it and the Red river. It is navigable 250 miles. The Red river is the southwestern channel of drainage, and is navigable throughout its course in the State. Thus we have the best avenues to afford drainage throughout all parts of the State. The State is divided into 74 counties; 46 of that number are watered by navigable streams, which, with their branches, afford a navigable highway, within the State, of over 3,000 miles, available throughout the year,

generally without climatic barriers, for internal commerce. The evaporation from the vast aqueous surface, the condensation and precipitation by rain, plainly demonstrate the peculiarity of climate for the latitudinal position.

#### CLIMATIC DIVISIONS OF THE STATE.

The climate of Arkansas is mild, salubrious, and inviting. Sudden alterations in temperature are less frequent than in the Eastern States of the same latitude, the climate being not so changeable as in the lower Gulf States. The prairie, flat and low lands south of the line drawn, do not show as high a temperature as some Northern States, and the winters are generally short; the mercury rarely falls so low at zero. Within the limits of the State we find a great variety of mineral in the different tissues of the soil. Vast deposits of valuable minerals are found in the northern division. The rich formations of tertiary and post-tertiary deposits in the lower division are not excelled in fertility by any known land. The bottom-lands, we find, vary in quality and productiveness, yet they are generally remarkably deep and rich.

Thus formed by nature, Arkansas is a desirable agricultural and mineral State. Exempt alike from the intense heat of the extreme South and the severe cold of the North, her genial climate and fertile soil produce in abundance the productions of both regions. The rich bottom-lands will yield, under favorable culture, from 80 to 100 bushels of Indian corn, and about 450 pounds of cotton per acre, which is considered a fair average crop. The climate and soil, with the organic constituents, and moisture requisite, by precipitation of rain, dews and vapor, to support growth of staple productions, afford an index regarding this subject. The meteorological reports accompanying, showing the mean calculations for each month, at all seasons of the past year, will give an inkling of climatic conditions at the capital, which is about the geographical and commercial centre of the State. The diversified surface, presenting mountains and valleys, foot-hills and plains, table-lands, second bottoms, undulating prairie, rich bottoms, flats and overflowed sections, gives to particular localities local atmosphere, notable topography, and singular meteorological influences. The temperature of the seasons, in the different parallels of latitude within the State, greatly differs.

According to Dr. Scoresby Jackson's chart of medical climatology, showing climatic lines, or isothermals, we find Arkansas embraced within the most agreeable latitudes found north of the equator. Between the 30th and 40th degrees north latitude is the most desirable belt known throughout North America, Europe, Africa and Asia. It is the most temperate, equal, and healthful zone of latitude that surrounds the earth. In the precipitation of rain, refreshing showers, dews, and wind currents, Blodget gives the same mean, showing it to be the most favored clime. The precipitation, at all seasons throughout the year, owing to physical causes, is more equal in amount than found elsewhere in adjacent parallels. The *vernal* mean temperature at Little Rock, for 1871, was 72 deg. 32 min. Fahr. It corresponds isothermally, or as a climatic line, with our continent, between the Atlantic and Pacific

oceans, commencing on the Atlantic coast at a point in Florida (in a parallel with Tampa) a little south of New Smyrna, touching the line at New Orleans, the interior of Chihuahua, also on a line of Fort Yuma (Colorado and Gila rivers), and terminating on the Pacific coast at San Diego. The *summer mean* at the capital for 1871, being the warmest season experienced within the past decade of years, records a temperature of 80 deg. 29 min. Fahr., corresponding to the isothermal mean on the Atlantic coast (east), with the north boundary of the Bahama Islands. Littorally it compares with Charleston, S. C., and Wilmington, N. C. In the interior of the continent, with Augusta, Ga., Montgomery, Ala., Jackson, Miss., Fort Towson, I. T., Austin, Texas, El Paso, N. M., passing through the centre of the great basin of the interior to Sacramento, Cal., and Loreto, in L. Cal. Yet we find a climate remarkable for precipitation for the line of temperature. The *autumn mean*, 50 deg. 44 min. Fahr., recorded for 1871, at the same place, corresponds, on the Atlantic coast, with a point south of Boston, Mass., internally with New Haven, Conn., Providence, R. I., Pittsburg, Penn., Cleveland, Ohio, Oswego, N. Y., Detroit, Mich., Council Bluffs, Iowa, Fort Laramie, Las Vegas, Albuquerque, Salt Lake City, Fort O'Kamagan, on a line coursing northwesterly, terminating on the Pacific coast at Vancouver's Island. Precipitation, generally, is not very great during the autumnal months. *Winter mean.* The temperature during the winter varies but slightly from that of autumn. At Little Rock, in 1871, it was only 50 deg. 22 min. Fahr., which in isothermal relations, on the Atlantic margin, compares with Charleston, S. C., Savannah, Ga., interiorly with Nachitoches, La., San Antonio, Texas, Fort Tejon—and coursing northerly, terminates on the Pacific coast at San Francisco. The precipitation is good throughout the winter, with an occasional fall of snow.

The mean temperature of the year 1871, at Little Rock, was 63 deg. 32 min. Fahr. It is difficult to compare this with any record or isothermal relation known. We can only approximate it on the northern division of the hemisphere. On the Asiatic Pacific coast the mean compares with the temperature of southern Japan. It courses Asia, running south of a parallel with Constantinople, again, on a line with Rome, easterly, a little south of Madrid, Spain, ranging about the temperature of the Azore Islands, touching the Atlantic coast of America about Charleston, S. C. It makes a good interior line, in regular parallel, west, running south of El Paso, and onward, northwesterly, to the Pacific coast of America about San Francisco. The hyetic relations are among the best to be found in the United States, and are regarded as the most desirable mean that belongs to the hemispheres.

#### GEOLOGY.

The geology of Arkansas in the various sections of the State is as varied as the climate—the various formations containing rich deposits of valuable mineral, coal, lignite, marls, and other marine deposits.

North of the chorographical division we have a delightful climate. The mountains, table-lands and valleys present generally a rich surface, good drainage,

romantic and picturesque scenery, and a productiveness remarkable for the formations and latitudes. The staple productions of that part of the State are more allied to those of Missouri, Tennessee and Kentucky. South of the diagonal line we find geological formations peculiar to the embayment of the Mississippi. It belongs to the drifts and deposits of the tertiary and post-tertiary periods. The formations belong to cretaceous, eocene tertiary, post-eocene, and quarternary chiefly. It is not proper in this report to delve too deeply into geology, or attempt to discuss chronologically the various formations. Our purpose is merely to allude to the nature of the expanse found in the area of the State, to give the exposure, surface, character of underlying rocks, mineral deposits, drainage of country, and such material that may afford a foundation of perpetual climatic value.

A rich mineral belt of lead can be traced from the southwest corner of the State, following the north division, bordering the northern portion of the line, and extending northeast to Pulaski county, perhaps beyond it (running from the "Bellah mines," on the margin of the State, to the "Kellogg mines"), varying in width, depth and value of the ore. Galena is also found abundantly in the northwestern part of the State, and extends southeast through several counties; zinc and manganese are also found near the southern margin of the Silurian formations. Iron abounds throughout the State, and, with the valuable coal measures, will be of future commercial importance. The vast deposit of lead ore found in this State is generally argentiferous galena. Along the diagonal line marine beds are found quite liberally distributed, interspersed among the clays, alongside of the lignitic belt that runs almost parallel with the galena.

The marine deposits are found coursing from the Mississippi border of the State (in Crittenden county) southwesterly in direction to the Red river. In Little River, Hempstead, Clark and the adjacent counties, they are found more superficial and apparently more abundant. These marine beds appear mostly as outliers on the cretaceous deposits developed in the southwestern part of the State. Geologists complain of the paucity of the vestiges of ancient life in the formation of the different groups, carboniferous, etc., found within the State. It suggests that the alterations of surface by elevation—uprising, or upheaval according to Hilgard, or the sudden retirement of the waters of the gulf, from the mountain barriers and slopes of this part of the great embayment, at an early period, and the rapid deposits of the tertiary and quarternary formations, may account for the apparent scarcity.

Palæozoic and palæo-botanical vestiges are not of sufficient interest to dwell upon in sectional climatology. The "grand prairie," lying between the Arkansas and White rivers, presents an elevated surface of table-land which is peculiar in soil, and an exception to the general productiveness of almost all other parts of the State. The surface appears a good retainer, but it requires organic matter, deep culture and exposure of the soil. If supplied with organic food, nature will soon reward the husbandman with a bounty. The palludal region that borders the shore line of the Mississippi river, from Mississippi county in

different parts to Chicot county, presents a large tract of surface that would prove immensely valuable by drainage. The overflowed bottoms are districts where pernicious climatic diseases usually prevail during the warm season. The productions of the basin section of the State are very valuable. The rich alluvial bottoms of this part of the State produce the valuable staples of the Southern States, together with the fruits, vegetation (especially the flora) of the semi-tropical latitudes.

#### BOTANY.

The division line drawn on the map of Arkansas separates the mountains, foot-hills, and undulating parts almost entirely from the level lands of the State, and gives a marked difference in the botany of the parts, recording the evidence by the varying staple productions, and luxuriance in vegetation, from the monarchs of the forest to the tiny cryptograms.

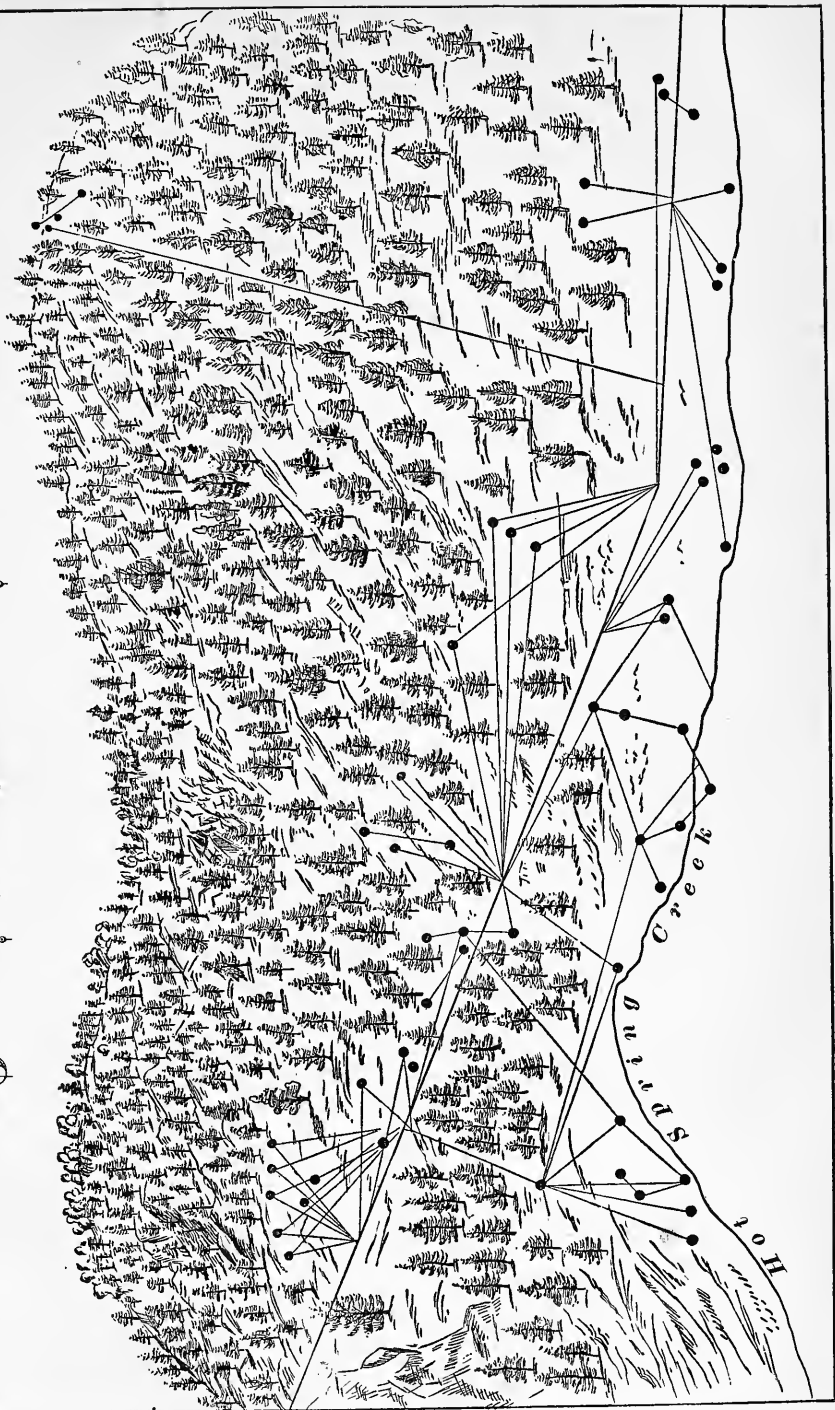
A knowledge of climate, and the conditions afforded by it, for the advantages of animal life, are thus clearly indicated.

#### HYGIENE.

We find variety in temperature, humidity, and all meteorological conditions within the boundary of our State. The chorographical line designated also marks a climate line north of it. The cheerful, romantic, invigorating atmosphere of the mountain regions, with its clear bright skies, affords an inviting tonic climate, especially for those suffering with chronic affections of the respiratory organs, digestive forces, or general physical debility. The more equal sedative climate of the southern division of the State is also well suited for diseases of the mucous surface. The temperature, although relaxing during the hot months, is generally genial. The vicissitudes or sudden transitions, however, are less frequent than we find in the adjacent States. In the lower tier of counties, particularly where the pine in dense forests abounds, a good atmosphere can be found for those chronic sufferers who are afflicted with catarrhal, bronchial or pulmonary affections. In the low lands in the various parts of the State, where a rank and luxuriant vegetable growth is general, will be found those types of malarial diseases which characterize such regions elsewhere. The inhabitants living adjacent to palludal sections, or residing in the rich alluvial and post-tertiary parts, suffer from miasma, which produces vernal, æstival and autumnal climatic ills. Intermittent and remittent fevers are common, and visceral disturbances a consequent; malarial hepatic, malarial splenic, malarial renal, malarial pulmonic, malarial gastric, malarial enteric, malarial cerebral, spinal and nervous derangements prevail. Cerebro-spinal meningitis, hæmic glandular disturbances, pneumonia, hæmaturia, hæmatemesis, morbus Addisonii, gastrointestinal disease, rheumatism, neuralgia, all belong to that class of diseases most generally due to atmospheric impregnations.

Arkansas is abundantly supplied with pure delicious water. Her numerous rivers, springs and clear streams flowing from mountain tributaries, supply the inhabitants with a superabundance. The number of valuable mineral springs

# Hot Springs of Arkansas.



Don't forget to write to me



throughout the State is inviting to health and pleasure seekers, and, with the climatic advantages, if rendered accessible to visitors, would, throughout the year, make much of the State a sanitarium.

#### THE HOT SPRINGS OF ARKANSAS.

The Hot Springs of Arkansas, in the interior of the State, are among the wonders of the continent. These springs, fifty-seven in number, ranging in temperature from 93 to 150 degrees Fahr., discharge over 500,000 gallons of water daily, sufficient in quantity to accommodate (with delightful bathing) 10,000 bathers every day in the year. These natural earth-heated waters hold in solution valuable mineral constituents. Clear, tasteless, inodorous, these springs pour forth, from the novaculite ridge, waters as pure, bright and sparkling as the pellucid Neva. The various springs are qualitatively allied, not holding in solution or freighted with too much abusive mineral, and they are free from all noxious gases. It is believed the properties of the waters, especially in the treatment of chronic hæmic diseases, are unequaled. There are no springs known of superior value, or that can compare with the Hot Springs of Arkansas, as adjuncts in the treatment of that class of chronic diseases. They are more nearly allied to Gastein (in the Noric Alps) than any known springs; but, in regard to climatic advantages, we can justly claim that the climate of Arkansas, throughout the year, far surpasses the European. When hydrotherapy is more generally understood by the medical profession at large, these natural waters, as remedial adjuncts, will surely be more appreciated for the virtues they possess. These thermal springs do not belong to that class known as intermittent waters. They flow a constant, regular current with like temperature. Arising from great depth, the calidity or gelidness exteriorly does not appear to influence them. Many theories exist regarding the cause of heat of all such constant springs. We must incline to the views of Humboldt, that it is imparted by the inherent heat of the earth. These superheated waters and gases, with the high electrical conditions (as we find, artificially or naturally generated, whenever the temperature is elevated to a certain altitude above ebullition), hold in solution the soluble mineral tissues of the earth, through which the hot water penetrates, and convey it to the surface. The crude materials found by qualitative analyses in these waters are

Silicates with base.  
Bicarbonate of lime.  
Bicarbonate of magnesia.  
Carbonate of soda.  
Carbonate of potassa.  
Carbonate of lithia.  
Sulphate of magnesia.  
Chloride of magnesia.

Alumina, with oxide of iron.  
Oxide of manganese.  
Sulphate of lime.  
Arsenate of lime?  
Arsenate of iron?  
Bromine?  
Iodine, a trace.  
Organic matter, a trace.

The pure, subtile liquid certainly holds in refinement active mineral ingredients, that no chemical analysis can resolve satisfactorily its true natural combinations, or reveal the relations. The inherent thermo-electric properties, together with the peculiar chemical formations of the carbonates of the alkalies, alkaline earths, and other mineral substances, give the waters properties that cannot be

imitated by art. Their action is strangely unlike artificially prepared waters. Who would sip, gulp, or quaff down three or four pints of artificially prepared water, at a temperature of 148 deg. or 150 deg. Fahr. at one time, and feel refreshed after the feat? Here it is given to invalids as the usual dose during the process of bathing. The efficacy of this wonderful fluid, medicated mysteriously in subterranean recesses, by its affinities, or powerful combining forces, is really a subject worthy of more general study and of true professional interest. As "correlants," "alterants" and "eliminants," these waters are important adjuncts that will aid the practitioner with celerity to control many obstinate chronic ills. When projected railroads are completed, affording greater facilities for travel, this miniature Baden-Baden will be an invalids' resort throughout the year. We predict that the period is not remote when these springs will be more famous and resorted to annually by the European tourists for all chronic hæmic diseases.

The Mammoth Spring, in Fulton county is also a remarkable phenomenon. The main body of water issues from a cavernous orifice 40 yards in circumference. A volume of water flows, constant in temperature of 60 deg. Fahr. and in quantity estimated at 8,000 barrels per minute. This water, doubtless, has some subterranean origin that courses beneath the silurian formations. The surface of the water is continually agitated by the bubbling action of the carbonic acid which impregnates it. The highly charged gaseous water favors the development of aquatic plants, which attract water fowls during the cold months. No great value is attached to the medicinal properties of the Mammoth Spring waters, but it is here noted as a matter of scientific interest. It is a valuable hydraulic power for manufacturing purposes.

#### DISEASES, ETC.

When your Committee on Climatology, etc., for this State, was appointed, correspondence soon commenced with a number of intelligent medical gentlemen residing in different parts of the State, soliciting their aid in the effort to procure the best material for a report. They were invited to furnish, for record, a knowledge of the past, supply vital statistics, report epidemics, endemics, nature of sporadic diseases, peculiarities in type belonging to their respective locations; in brief, to present all important climatic facts known to them in their region, in order to consummate the work. Special attention was directed to certain localities, seeking information based upon the physical geography, geological formation, nature of soil, and meteorological conditions. Several respected friends promptly responded to the call, giving interesting data for future use, which were thankfully received, and will be referred to in the course of this paper with a degree of satisfaction. It is unfeignedly a matter of profound regret that more valuable statistics cannot be added. With few pleasing exceptions we can furnish very few statistics worthy of record. Application was made, also, to note particularly the effects of climate, and the supposed immunity, or otherwise, of the different races, concerning diseases of a peculiar type. It was desirable, if possible, to have the experience of your committee

confirmed in the conclusions concerning the several diseases mentioned. It is allowed, and has been noted by your committee, that croup, diphtheria, influenza, ozaena, and *delirium tremens* are rarely found among the pure-bred African race in this climate; that syphilis and gonorrhœa are more tractable with that race; also that integumentary (positive electrical phases) as well as mucous ills (negative electrical phases) are less persistent and infrequent among Africans. Phthisis pulmonalis, typhoid fever, gout, and rheumatism, with their complications, are less frequent in Arkansas than found in the adjacent States. Although phthisis pulmonalis rarely originates here, yet it is proper to qualify the last expression regarding the rarity and comparison with the State of Texas. Doubtless southwestern, middle and northwestern Texas affords a climate equally favorable to combat that disease as this State; but each State merits the attention of medical men—for those who have hereditary predispositions, or are threatened with respiratory diseases of that class. The appended replies of the gentlemen who were interrogated for special information will give an idea of the questions asked concerning the subject. All feel and deplore the want of vital statistics.

The recent organization of local medical societies, and of a State Medical Association, in this State, will tend to impart valuable information concerning the nature of diseases, climatic and meteorological influences, if the duties of the respective bodies are properly directed for scientific accomplishment. We add a list of the local societies reported organized at the last session of the State Medical Association.

#### NATURE OF DISEASES, ETC.

Dr. P. O. Hooper, of Little Rock, late President of the State Medical Association, etc., under date of April 4, 1870, informs your committee: "*We have never had an epidemic of any kind in Little Rock.* All eruptive fevers are of a mild and tractable type. Have had but few cases of pneumonia for two years. Pneumonia is frequently complicated with typhoid symptoms; also bilious or remittent fevers with the same complications. Do not believe I ever saw one well-marked idiopathic case of typhoid fever, the disease only occurring or following other fevers. Phthisis pulmonalis is rare. Don't recollect now of ever seeing a case of phthisis in this section that originated here unless from hereditary succession. Skin diseases are not common; uterine ills infrequent; scrofula rare; ozaena rare; rheumatism the last season quite frequent, very tenacious, and difficult to overcome; seldom any heart complications. Previous to last year rheumatism was seldom known here. Dysentery quite frequent during dry summers and fall, but seldom fatal. No statistics or mortuary reports kept by city. Consider Little Rock more healthy than any town in the United States of equal population." In reply to further inquiries Dr. Hooper, under date of February 7, 1872, writes: "In all my practice I have never seen an epidemic of any kind. Nothing *epidemic* prevails in this place. Sporadic cases of contagious diseases are rare. I believe, immediately after the war, cholera prevailed among the soldiers and freedmen, but I saw none. Even pneumonia is infrequent during the present winter. I have had but *three* cases,

and have heard of but few other cases in the city for six months past." In February, 1872, it was reported that cerebro-spinal meningitis was prevailing, and that three deaths had occurred among the students at St. John's College, at Little Rock. Your committee at once made inquiry concerning it. In reply, under date of February 21, 1872, Dr. P. O. Hooper, chairman of the committee appointed by the trustees of St. John's College to investigate the cause, furnished the report of the committee in relation to it. We extract the following: "The disease was known to prevail in St. John's College in the years 1862 and 1863, when occupied as a hospital by the C. S. Army. The hospital steward at that time, Mr. H. C. Burrows, now residing in this vicinity, states that there occurred not less than 100 cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis, a large majority of which died. The cistern-water used by the cadets for drinking purposes has been examined, and found to contain organic matter. Hospital steward Burrows further states that Confederate surgeons had to discontinue the use of this cistern-water, from its supposed injurious influences." The communication from Dr. R. G. Jennings, U. S. Army, corroborates the same statement. The committee, in reply to the interrogatories of the trustees, add: "We are of the opinion that there exists some local cause or causes that have excited this outbreak," and they suggest the following, viz.: "We recommend that the interior of the building be saturated with freshly manufactured chlorine gas; that the walls be thoroughly whitewashed or calciumized, either preparation of lime to contain a small amount of carbolic acid. That the wood-work be repainted; floors cleaned with water impregnated with concentrated lye, and afterwards painted. The remnants of matting now on the floors should be removed and burned; unslaked lime, or other disinfectants, should be freely used around and about the building, and all cess-pits should be covered with earth. We also recommend the closing of the cistern, and that new ones be built; and that, for the present, all water for drinking purposes should be obtained from sources where it is known to be of pure quality." Attention to these suggestions, the daily inspection from the culinary department to the dormitories, the free circulation of pure fresh air, together with a thorough system of sanitary police, soon arrested the disease in that college.

In a few weeks after its subsidence at St. John's College, the disease occurred in a few sporadic cases among the citizens of Little Rock, Arkansas. It proved fatal in almost every case. Cerebro-spinal meningitis appeared also at Helena and Lewisburg, Arkansas, and a few sporadic cases were reported along the Arkansas river, but the type of it was less malignant. At Helena it attacked all ages, from childhood to advanced years.

The contribution to this report from Dr. Hooper speaks for the interior of the State; Little Rock (his birth-place) being the capital, and about the geographical centre.

Dr. R. G. Jennings, of Little Rock, read before the Arkansas Medical Association, November 6, 1872, "A Sanitary Survey of Little Rock," which is a valuable paper and merits attention, as Little Rock is now attracting the attention of capitalists and others from abroad, as a desirable location for residence

and for its commercial advantages. We append the following extract from Dr. Jennings' report:

The city supply of water is altogether from artificial wells and cisterns, and is of a fair, healthy quality, in no case deleterious, and in very many excellent. Thus a sanitary survey of our situation and surroundings, although we are usually considered as located in a malarious district, discloses no prominent causes for endemic or epidemic influences.

Prior to the war it was considered a remarkably healthy and desirable place of residence, and, within the memory of the oldest physician, had never been visited by either of those scourges of the human race—cholera or yellow fever. During the war and occupancy by Confederate and Federal armies respectively, particularly of the latter, the amount of sickness, both among soldiers and citizens, was undeniably appalling. Disease then seemed intensified, and proved alarmingly fatal among freedmen, women and children, and among white refugees.

This, however, could in a great measure be accounted for by causes referable strictly to unfavorable sanitary conditions; such, for example, as the crowding together of a large number of persons in one house, cabin or tent; the inferior quality of their food; the improper preparation of it; their irregular and gluttonous manner of partaking it—usually “bolting” rather than masticating it; the want of necessary and proper clothing, etc.; the unusual exposure to cold and moisture; the constant excitement of mind; in fact all these exerted an influence favorable to the development of disease.

Throughout the summer of 1866 there was a great amount of sickness, and, in addition to our endemic diseases, cholera supervened, and prevailed quite extensively among soldiers and citizens.

It first appeared among some new recruits stationed at the United States Arsenal, who had passed through infected places on their way to this post. There had, however, prior to the appearance of cholera, been observed a marked tendency to diarrhoeas, dysenteries, cholera morbus, and other kindred bowel affections; so that remedial agents of a cathartic or even laxative nature, when prescribed, exerted such a powerful effect upon the patient that their use had become extremely limited. Cholera was also known to prevail this season in almost every city along the Mississippi river.

It is impossible to arrive at any positive conclusion regarding the fatality of the disease among the citizens, as there exist no proper records from which an accurate estimate could be made. From the number I personally attended, and from the number which other physicians have informed me they observed, I then approximated the number of deaths from this disease among both white and colored, at 165; this from a population of between 8,000 and 9,000 persons.

From the commencement of the year 1867 until the present time (November, 1871) the health of the city has been unusually good. In this period there has not prevailed any distinct type of endemic or epidemic disease of sufficient virulence or fatality to cause anxiety of mind among any class of persons. Unfortunately there has not been, until recently, any record of diseases or causes of death, or other authentic evidences or data, from which accurate information could be

obtained sufficient to enable the physician to draw conclusions. The Pulaski County Medical Society first brought before the city council the subject of the registration of all deaths, and the causes producing the same.

This body, appreciating the necessity of accurate information for statistical and sanitary purposes, passed an ordinance regulating the burial of the dead, etc., which ordinance became a law on the 31st day of March last.

This ordinance requires, as a condition precedent to the issuance of a burial permit, a certificate from a physician, stating the name, age, sex, color, nativity, social relation, place of residence, duration of last illness, disease or cause of death, and place of intended interment. This law has now (Nov. 1st, 1871,) been in force seven months; and I find, upon careful and accurate enumeration, that 268 deaths have been recorded: white males 98, white females 59, colored males 66, colored females 45. Including in the number of deaths (268), are stillborn white children 9, and stillborn colored children 20.

Number of deaths of white children five years of age and under, 48. Number of deaths of colored children five years of age and under, 47. Number of permits issued for interments of persons whose residence and death were outside the city and immediate vicinity, 47 (these being also included in the whole number enumerated, viz., 268).

Deducting these latter, we have, in a period of seven months, 221 deaths proper, in the city, from a population of 17,000—an average of a fraction over 31 per month, or a fraction over one death each day.

As there is no registration of births, it is impossible to make an estimate of the number, or to compare the ratio of deaths with that of births.

And, as we have no authorized classification of diseases or causes of death, I have hastily improvised one, and arranged the list of diseases and causes, as best I could, in view of the imperfect manner in which the certificates have been made out. The arrangement is as follows:

#### CLASS I.

Miasmatic diseases.....	88
Enthetic diseases.....	1
Dietetic diseases.....	6

#### CLASS II.

Diathetic diseases.....	5
Tubercular diseases.....	34

#### CLASS III.

Diseases of the nervous system.....	34
“ “ throat, lungs and heart.....	24
Hepatic, venal, and digestive diseases.....	21
Disease of the bones.....	1
Wounds, injuries, and accidents.....	12
Unclassified, including stillborn.....	37

It will be observed that there is no unusual proportion of any one distinct cause of disease.

That the greatest number of deaths (95) in Class I. was, from miasmatic causes 88, enthetic 1, dietetic 6, of which there were 21 cases of congestive fever, and cases reported as congestion.

That the next largest number in Class I. (15) was from remittent fever, while the third in progression (12) was from chronic diarrhœa. These all come under the order of miasmatic diseases.

Under the order of dietetic diseases in Class I., there were four cases of death from intemperance, and one from *delirium tremens*, making five in all, an unusual proportion of deaths from this cause: a fact somewhat suggestive, irrespective of any question of morality, as regards the quality of liquors generally sold in our city.

In Class II. we find 39 deaths; from diathetic causes five, tubercular 34. Thus we have 31 cases of death from consumption, a very large percentage, considering the season of the year. Of these, 13 were of white persons and 18 of colored. This exhibits the fact that consumption is making rapid strides among the latter-named race of people.

In Class III. there are 134 deaths; of inflammation of the brain we find 13 cases. Also 10 cases of cynanche trachealis or croup. The former as well as the latter cases, in this class of local diseases, appeared chiefly among children.

From wounds, injuries and accidents, we have 12 deaths, a *very* large mortality indeed. Of this number, five were killed or died from wounds inflicted by other persons; two were drowned; two burned sufficient to cause death; two died from amputation of leg after injury, and one committed suicide by taking strychnine.

Dr. E. R. Duval, of Fort Smith, Arkansas, writes under date of March 5th, 1870: "The data of medical history in this part of Arkansas are exceedingly meagre and unsatisfactory. Would that there was a well-organized medical society in each county in the State; also a State organization, awake to the best interests of the profession." Under date of March 27th, 1870, in reply to further inquiries, he states: "Influenza has not been frequent in this State, although for the past two months an epidemic has been general throughout this and Scott counties—form mild. Ozaena is very rare. I've never seen a case of croup in the pure-bred African. I've found syphilis very manageable, more so, by far, than in the white race. The same fact might be stated in reference to gonorrhœa in the African. I've never seen a *delirium tremens* in the negro. Such is also the observation of Dr. Dunlap, who has practiced medicine and surgery upon this frontier for many years. The Indians west, in their diseases, present nothing peculiar, save much less resistance and great proneness to 'passive congestions,' particularly of the lungs. There has been, for sixty days, an epidemic of tonsillitis in this city. Latitude of Fort Smith, 35 deg. 23 min. north; longitude 94 deg. 29 min. west."

Your committee is further indebted to the accomplished gentleman for the following report of the diseases, etc., of the northwestern section of the State:

"The climate of this and contiguous counties is *temperate*. The summer season is distinguished by no exalted degree of heat. The thermometer exhibits, from the first of June, a temperature varying from 85 to 96 deg. Fahr., until the 20th of August. For a few days in July, particularly during a season of drought, the mercury may rise as high as 100 deg. Fahr. About the 20th of

August the nights begin to grow cool, and no heat worthy of record during the day, save at about noon. Gradually, as September approaches, the heat gives way or disappears, and by the 20th of September the fall has commenced, which in this latitude is gratefully acknowledged, as it is marked by no sudden changes, but on the contrary is cool and bracing. About the 20th of November, almost invariably, there is a 'cold spell,' lasting about 10 days, when it again moderates to usual fall weather, and winter is not clearly announced until the 20th of December. At this time, and for a week, the thermometer indicates a temperature varying from 20 to 32 deg. Fahr. The residue of the winter presents no excess of cold—a temperature varying from 32 to 44 deg. Fahr. The present winter has been a very mild one and quite dry. Our spring commences after Easter, usually about the 15th of April. I am unable to furnish classified tables, as I have neither barometer, thermometer nor hygrometer.

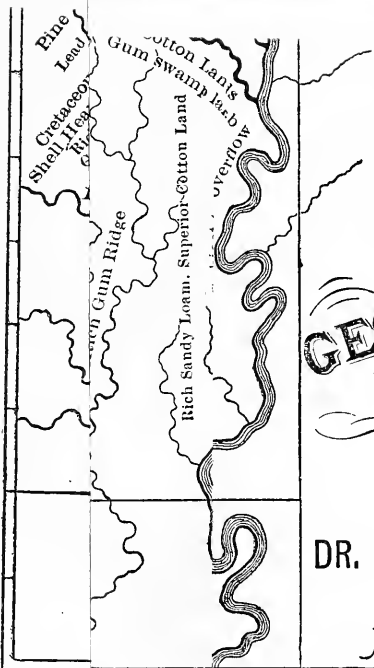
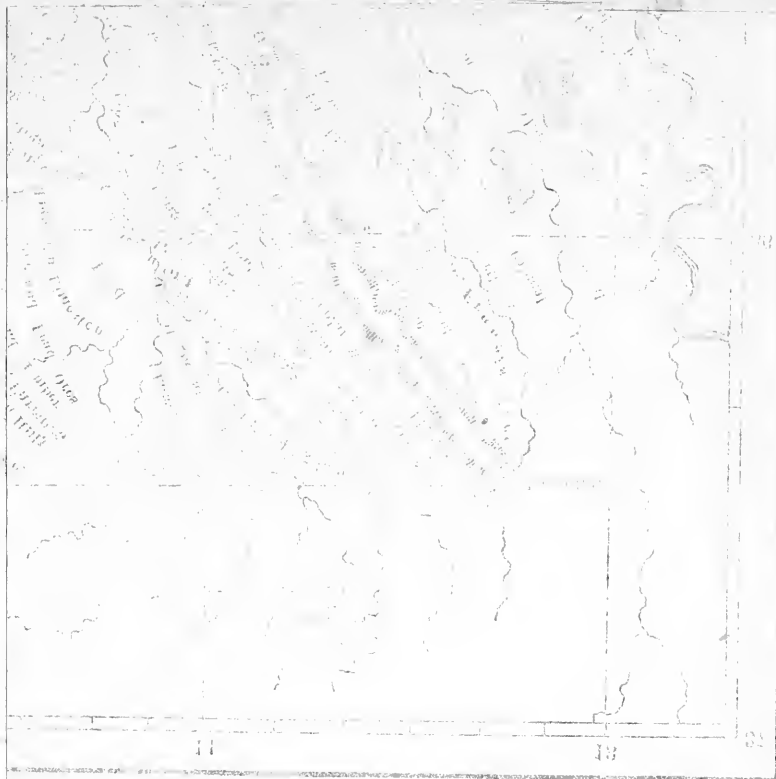
"The physical geography of the country presents much diversity. The carboniferous area, in this county especially, is very large and fertile; the product is rich and abundant, not only for home consumption, but also (if transportation could be secured) for exportation. Of diseases, those of malarial origin are by far the most prevalent. Intermittents assume every type; the tertian, however, is the most common. No season is exempt. Most prevalent from the 1st of June to the 1st of October; usually yielding to the antiperiodic, quinia. My experience in the treatment of the disease leads me to regard no treatment satisfactory unless patients are removed from the malarial districts; then, by systematic and persistent effort, the paroxysms may be controlled. All diseases here exhibit decided periodic exacerbations, demanding sooner or later antiperiodic treatment. Cholera prevailed at Forts Smith and Gibson in 1832, 1849, 1851, 1866 and 1867. The epidemics in 1832, 1849 and 1851 were *very fatal*.

"One remarkable fact in reference to the cholera, in its manifestations here, is that it has never visited Van Buren, Crawford county, Arkansas, a small town on the north side, five miles northeast of Fort Smith. It is true a few sporadic cases occurred, but in no way did it spread among the inhabitants. This is the more remarkable when it is known that no quarantine regulations interdicted the free intercourse of the citizens of the two places. We have never had yellow fever. Dysentery is not common. In 1853-4 a fatal epidemic prevailed in Washington, Benton, Madison and Carroll counties. The type was adynamic, and was equally fatal in young and old. Typhoid fever, pure and uncomplicated, is rarely seen. Pneumonia is common in the winter, and often assumes a typhoid type. Phthisis is rare. Of the 'exanthemata,' we have had epidemics of scarlatina, rubeola and variola.

"In 1846-7 scarlatina raged as an epidemic through this and adjoining counties. It appeared again in 1863-4, but without malignancy. Rubeola has often visited us. In 1869 it was very general in its manifestations, yet mild and easily managed. Variola has often occurred sporadically; in 1859-60 it assumed an epidemic character, and out of 500 cases in this city, 10 per cent. at least died. Of the eruptive diseases the following of the chronic class are most common, viz.: urticaria, eczema and prurigo. They are generally very readily



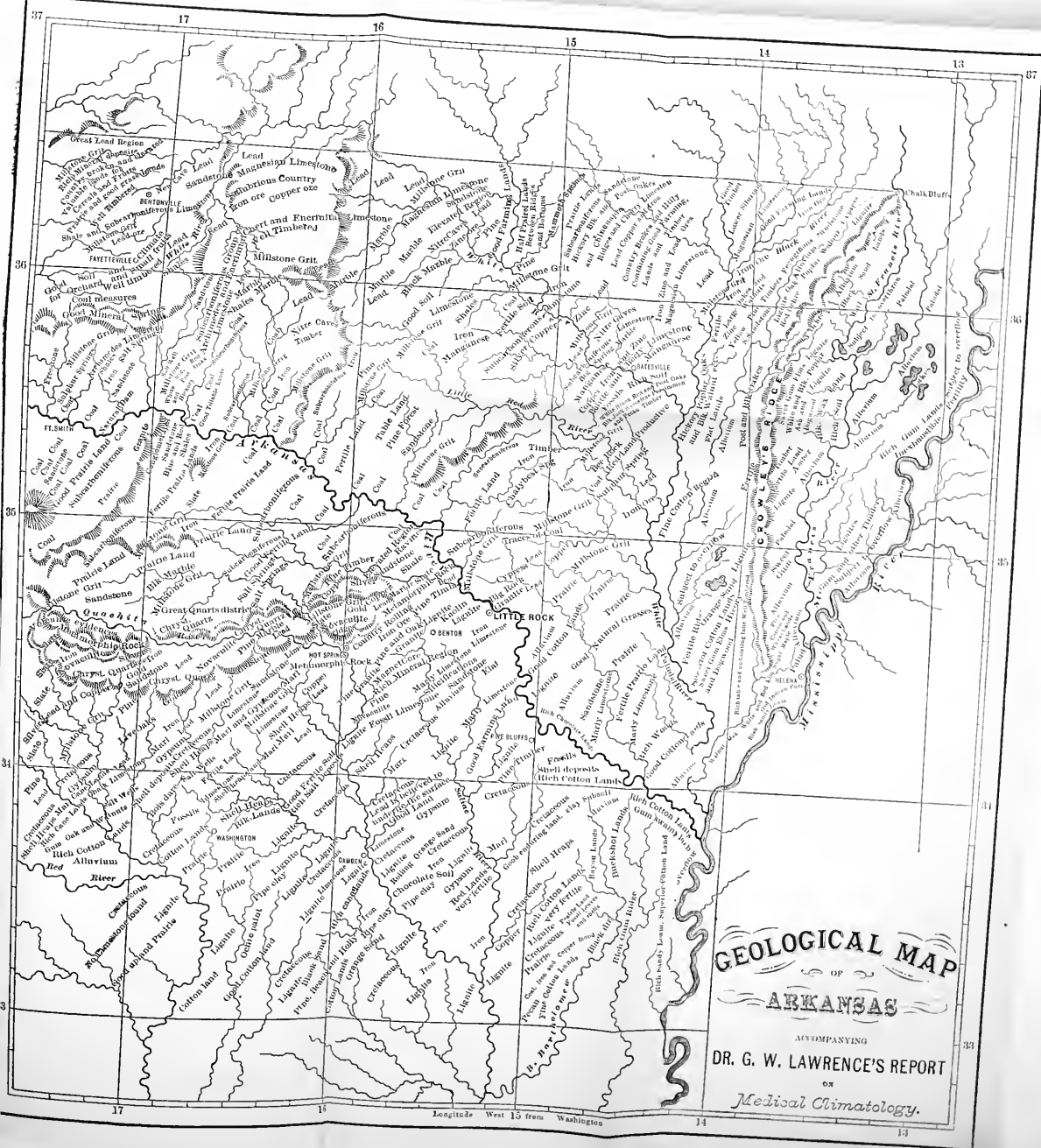
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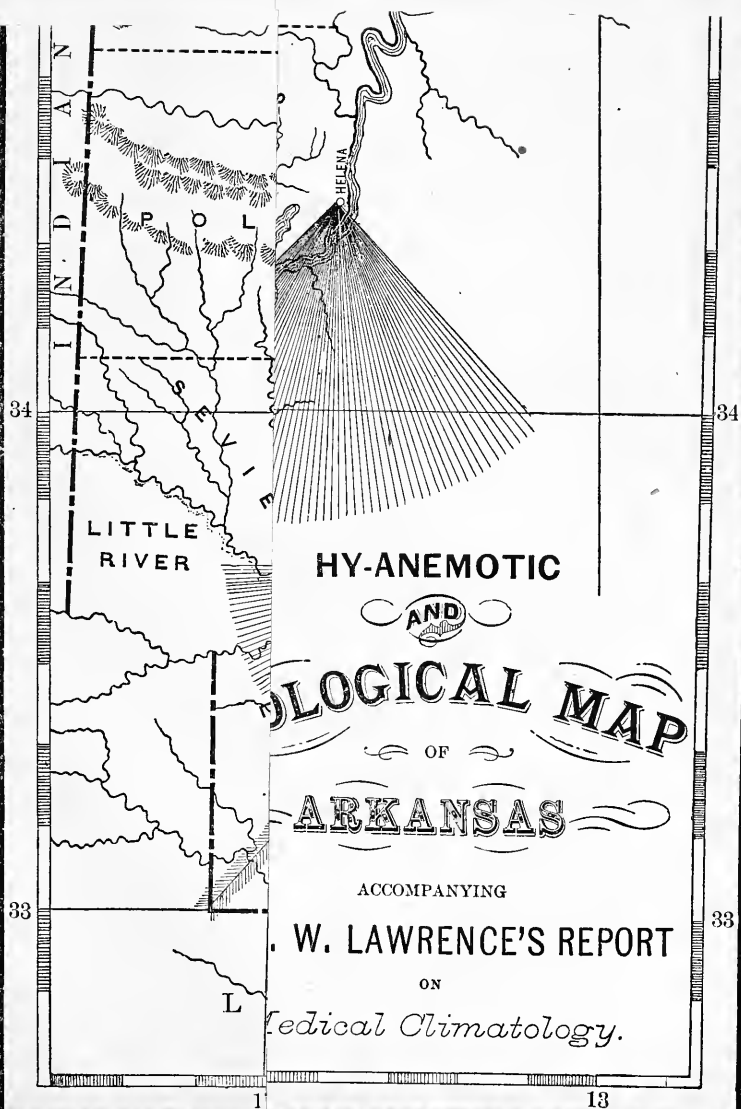
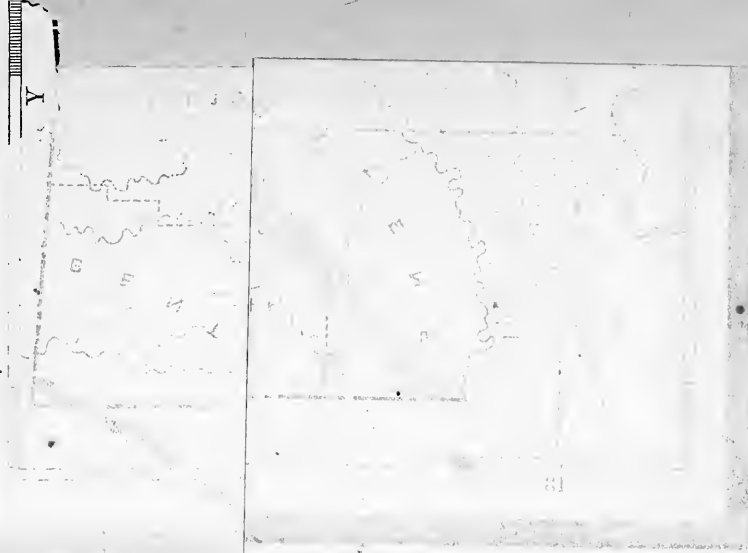
# GEOLOGICAL MAP OF ARKANSAS

ACCOMPANYING  
DR. G. W. LAWRENCE'S REPORT  
ON  
*Medical Climatology.*

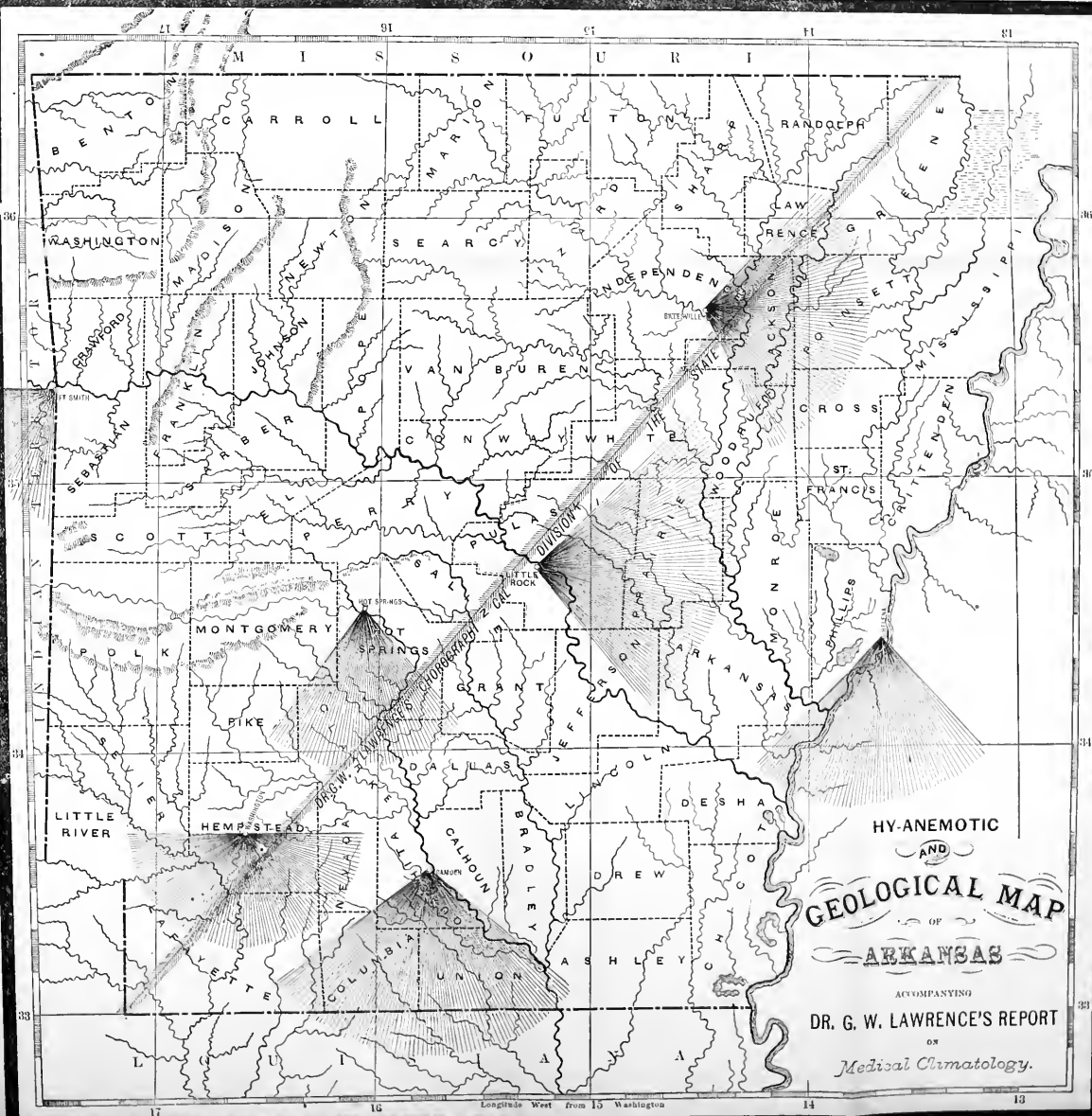




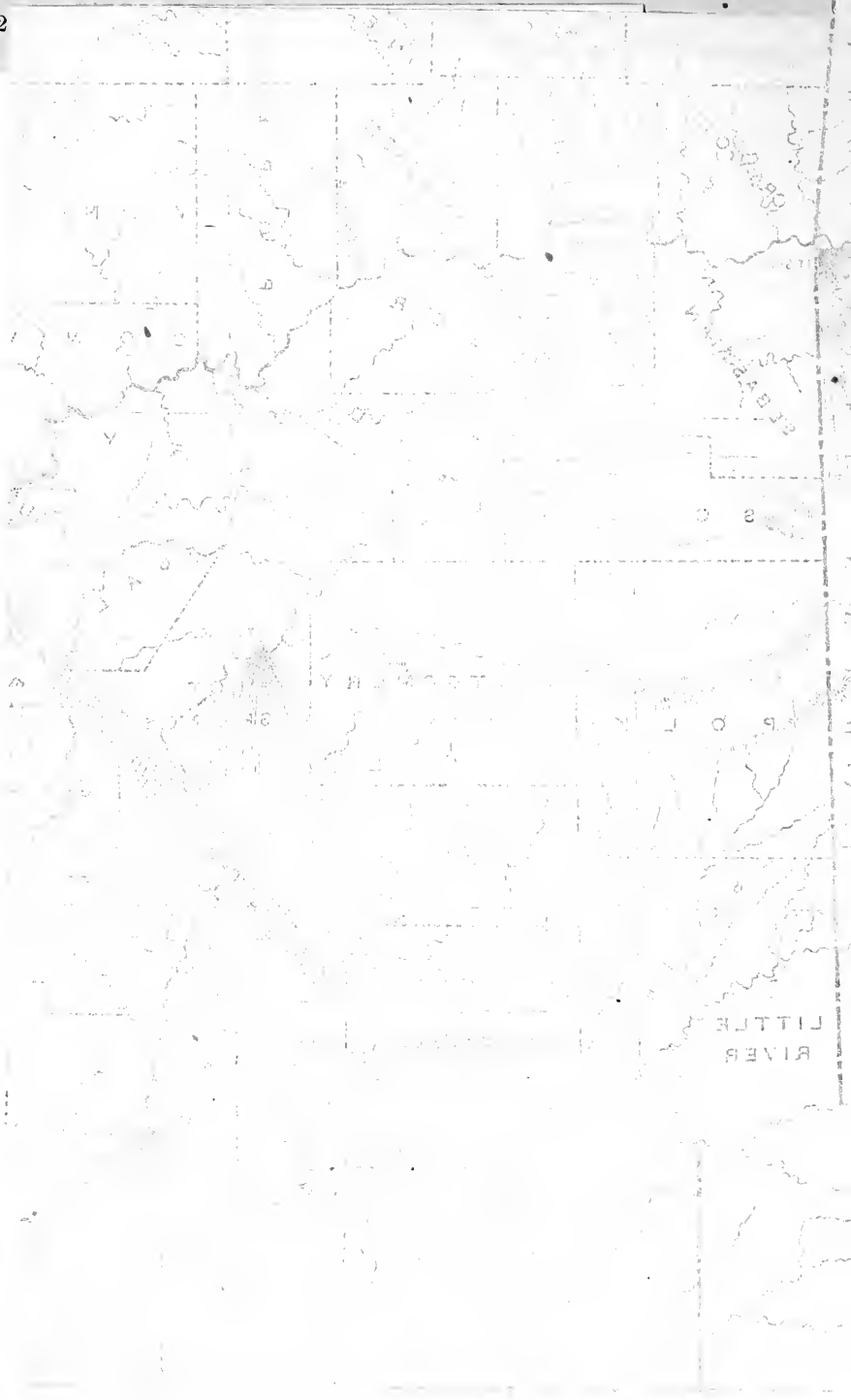








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controlled. A form of prurigo, known with us as 'army itch,' has prevailed since the war, and in the majority of cases has been very persistent, defying in some the very best and most skillful treatment. Of the neuroses, neuralgia of the fifth pair or trifacial nerve is the most common; indeed it is *very general*. Females are very prone to it, and no treatment can be regarded as curative—palliation, in most cases, alone being possible. The latter remark is not intended to embrace those cases clearly of malarial origin. Of uterine diseases the most common is chronic cervical endometritis, and from my limited observation I am led to believe no treatment satisfactory without perfect physiological rest.

"I now close, expressing regret at my failure to give you anything satisfactory; still, my dear sir, if I dared offer anything by way of extenuation, I might, even with such a critic as you, be justified."

Since the date of Dr. Duvall's report (March 6, 1870,) he has assisted in the organization of a State Medical Association, taken part in the proceedings, and met delegates from *nine local or county medical societies* at the last session. At the last meeting of the State Association he contributed an article on "Malarial Hematuria," which is published in the Proceedings.

Dr. J. A. Owens, of Monticello, kindly supplied your committee with valuable information relating to the medical topography, climate, and diseases of southeastern Arkansas. Under date of January, 1871, he writes: "I will include, in the short report, the counties of Drew, Ashley, Desha and Chicot, situated in the extreme southeast corner of the State, and comprising all the territory between the Mississippi river on the east and the Saline river on the west, and extending from the Arkansas river (near its mouth) north, to the Louisiana line south, latitude from about the 32d to the 34th deg. north. The counties of Desha and Chicot are situated exclusively in the *swamp*, or valley of the Mississippi. This valley or swamp has an average width here of from 25 to 30 miles, and is intersected with numerous lakes, sloughs and bayous. The higher lands are the banks of the river and of the larger bayous, and constitute, with few exceptions, the only habitable portion of this section of the country. In consequence of the destruction of the levees during the war, which were built for the protection of this region, it is subject to annual inundation during the March and June freshets of the Mississippi and its tributaries. The banks of these streams form, as a general rule, the highest part of the immediate country through which they pass, so that when the rivers fall, after an overflow, a large surface of land is left undrained, and a large amount of water is left to be carried off by percolation and evaporation during the summer. About 10 or 15 miles west of the Mississippi river, however, there is a large extent of swamp country which remains unaffected by the overflow of the river. This section is intersected by numerous ponds, sloughs and lakes, which, having no outlet, are filled with water during the winter and spring rains, and are consequently subjected to the same influences as the overflowed region. Near the junction of this vast swamp with the higher lands of Drew and Ashley counties meanders the Bayou Bartholomew, a stream of considerable importance in an agricultural

point of view. The lands on either bank are high, and entirely above overflow, and have a gradual descent for the distance of a half mile to one mile on either side, and are consequently well drained. The soil is a rich alluvium, and very productive. Its banks are dotted with numerous and extensive plantations. Still, thousands of acres of these magnificent lands are in their wild or virgin state, awaiting the ax and plow of the sturdy pioneer to develop their resources and make this one of the finest cotton regions of the State. This stream is navigable during the spring rise, for small boats, some 300 miles above its junction with the Ouachita river. As might be expected, the inhabitants of this swamp, and of the hills in its immediate vicinity, are subject to malarial fevers of every type, variety and grade.

“Leaving the swamp, which terminates abruptly in an irregular line of bluffs or hills, with an elevation of 50 or 75 feet above the valley, we come next to the high lands of Drew and Ashley counties. For a distance of 10 or 15 miles west of the valley, the country is comparatively level, with a gradual elevation towards the centre of Drew county, where it swells into a broken mountain ridge, with an elevation of 150 to 200 feet above the valley of the Mississippi. This ridge runs through the centre of Drew county, from north to south, and abounds with numerous springs of pure, soft water. Monticello, the county town of Drew county, is situated on this ridge, within 40 miles of the Mississippi river, and about midway between the swamp or Mississippi valley and the Saline river, and at the junction of the M. O. & R. R. Railroad with the L. R., P. B. & N. O. Railroad. The former road is nearly completed to this point; the latter is in process of construction. Monticello has a population of 1,500 or 2,000 inhabitants, and is rapidly improving.

“Westward of this dividing ridge to the Saline river, and south through Ashley county, the country is less elevated and more level, and covered with a thick growth of magnificent pine timber. There are quite a number of prairies in Ashley county. The soil of this upland or hill country is argillaceous, covered with a thick vegetable mould. That of the bottom-lands, on the numerous creeks which intersect this region, is partly alluvial, and very productive. The principal productions are cotton, corn, wheat, oats, potatoes and tobacco.

“Culinary vegetables, of almost every variety, and superior quality, are raised in abundance. Various kinds of fruit, as the apple, peach, pear, plum, nectarine, fig, pomegranate, etc., are very abundant, and attain a large growth, and are finely flavored.

“The forest trees consist principally of the genus *quercus*, *pinus*, *carya*, *juglans*, *lyospyros*, *populus laevigata*, *prunus Virginiana*, *almus fulva*, *et rubra*, *cornus Florida*, and *cupressus disticha*.

#### “FLORA, FAUNA, ETC.

“The following are a few of the plants of this region: *Datura stramonium*, *azalia nudicalis*, *podophyllum peltatum*, *arum tryphyllum*, *allium sativum*, *aristolochia serpentaria*, *chenopodium anthelminticum*, *phytolacca decandra*, *rubus villosus*, *rubus trivialis*, *vitis vulpina*, *vitis labrusca*, *rhys toxicodendron*,

*gelsemium sempervirens*, *marrubium vulgare*, *mentha piperita*, *mentha viridis*, *asclepias tuberosa*, *helianthus annuus*, *tanacetum vulgare*.

"The animals of this region, as in other parts of the State, are the black bear, deer, panther, wild-cat, fox (red), rabbit, raccoon, opossum, skunk, mink, wolf, otter, beaver, squirrel (red, gray and black), rat and mouse.

"The birds are: the wild turkey (*meleagris gallipavo*), turkey buzzard (*cathartes aura*), bald eagle (*falco leucocephalus*, owl (*strix Virginiana*), meadow lark (*alauda magna*), blackbird (*quisculus versicolor*), crow (*corvus Americanus*), blue jay (*cyanocephalus cristatus*), thrush (*terdus rufus*), robin (*terdus migratorius*), blue-bird (*sialis Wilsonii*), snow-bird (*emberiza nivalis*), wood-pecker (*picus auratus*), kingfisher (*alcedo alcyon*), swallow (*rufa hordeorum*), whip-poor-will (*caprimulgus vociferus*), pigeon (*columba migratorius*), partridge (*ortyx Virginianus*), red-bird (*tanagra aestiva*), mocking-bird (*mimus polyglottus*), snipe (*scolopax Wilsonii*), woodcock (*scolopax rusticola*). The wild goose (*anser Canad.*), and several species of the duck, as the *anas brochas* and *anas sponsa*, frequent the water-courses of this region during the winter.

"The rattles-nake, small ground rattlesnake, moccasin, cotton-mouth, viper, copperhead, black-snake, chicken-snake, king-snake and others, are quite numerous in the swamps, but are seldom seen in the hills.

"Among the insects I will mention the honey-bee, humble-bee, yellow-jacket, hornet, wasp, cricket, grasshopper, butter-fly, house-fly, house-fly, ant, flea, tick, gnat, mosquito, and sand-fly. The three last mentioned are confined almost exclusively to the swamps and low-lands, and are never troublesome on the Monticello Ridge.

"The rivers, lakes and creeks are abundantly supplied with fish of a superior quality. The principal varieties are the buffalo, cat, trout, bass, pike, perch, white-perch, gar, drum and sucker.

"The geology of this region presents an unexplored field for scientific research. I will remark, however, that beds of coal have been discovered on the Saline river, in the counties of Drew and Bradley, but they have not been sufficiently investigated to ascertain their quality or extent.

"The climate is mild and equable, the thermometer rarely going above 90 deg. or below 20 deg. Fahrenheit.

#### " DISEASES.

"The majority of diseases of this district, and especially those of the summer and fall months, are of malarial origin; and those which chiefly engage the attention of the physician are fevers of an intermittent and remittent type. In the counties of Desha and Chicot, situated as they are in the low, alluvial lands of the Mississippi Swamp, these fevers prevail extensively, and are generally of a very severe grade. In fact, they are so common in this region that an individual who resides here one season and escapes unscathed is looked upon as very fortunate indeed. The inhabitants of this swamp, with very few exceptions, exhibit in their general appearance the peculiar characteristics of malarial toxæmia, such as the pale, sallow complexion, protuberant abdomen, from

enlarged liver and spleen, and general depression of the physical and mental energies; so that, as a general rule, it is only necessary to see an individual to be able to tell in what portion of the country he resides.

“As the hill counties of Drew and Ashley lie due west of the Mississippi swamp, or palludal district proper, and the prevailing winds of summer are from the southwest, the miasmatic exhalations of that region are not so fully experienced here; consequently the fevers are not near so common, and are generally of a milder grade. In the treatment of the miasmatic fevers of this region, mercurial cathartics, quinine and the various preparations of cinchona are mainly relied on. Quinine is usually given in the intermission or remission of the fever; but in those severe cases of fever where the remission is not well marked, we do not hesitate to give it during the fever, combining it in those cases with *veratrum viride* or some one of the special sedatives.

“A very malignant form of malarial fever has prevailed to a limited extent in the swamps of this district, and on the hills in their immediate vicinity, characterized by a deep-yellow or jaundiced condition of the skin, excessive irritability of the stomach, and hæmaturia, and attended with remissions and exacerbations. This disease is peculiar to the South, and generally follows repeated attacks of intermittent fever. So much has been written and published by physicians of the South during the last three years in regard to the history, nature and treatment of this disease, and by those too who have made it their study at the bedside, that I will merely allude to it in this connection. Each writer on the subject has given it a name to suit his own peculiar views on the pathology of the disease. The name “*hæmorrhagic malarial fever*,” suggested by Dr. Michel, of Montgomery, Alabama, appears to be most generally adopted by the profession at present. I will remark that I have never met with a well-marked case of this disease in Monticello or vicinity; nor have I heard of a case occurring on the Monticello Ridge, in this county. My brother, Dr. J. M. Owens, of Hamburg, informs me that he has met with a number of cases of this disease in Ashley county, and that they have generally terminated fatally. During the winter and spring, diseases of the respiratory organs, as catarrh, laryngitis, bronchitis, pneumonia and pleuritis, are most prevalent. As a general rule they are of a mild grade and yield readily to treatment.

“Previous to the late war this portion of the State was subject to occasional visitations of epidemics of typhoid fever, dysentery and typhoid pneumonia. Since 1860, however, with the exception of the almost universal prevalence of measles and whooping-cough in 1869, there is no disease which can be said to have occurred epidemically. The diseases of the digestive system are not of common occurrence, and are for the most part mild in character. The diarrhœas yield readily to a rational treatment. The dysenteries, being mostly unattended by general excitement, are promptly relieved by saline laxatives and opiates, hot fomentations and cold water enemata. Acute inflammatory rheumatism is a rare disease in this locality. In the subacute or chronic form, this disease is of more frequent occurrence, and is persistent in character; and although it may be relieved temporarily by a rational treatment, the disease is apt to return at every

unfavorable change in the weather, and, as a general rule, the patient has finally to be sent to the Hot Springs of Arkansas for a permanent cure."

Dr. J. N. Bragg, of Camden, courteously responded to your committee, and furnished, under date of April, 1870, the following report of the diseases, etc., of his section of the State:

"*Cholera*.—Camden, lying immediately on the Ouachita river, and being in direct communication with New Orleans for six to nine months in each year, has, in seasons when the cholera raged in the latter city and along the rivers leading thereto, had many cases of cholera, occurring on steamboats plying between the two points. Persons have died on boats at and near the wharf at Camden, and their remains were buried in the cemetery, yet the disease has never spread among the inhabitants. It is said by steamboat men that no one ever takes cholera on the river after he reaches the pine hil

"*Yellow Fever*.—There has never been a case of yellow fever in this city. At those seasons when it is prevalent in localities south of us, there is no communication between those places and Camden; consequently there has never been a case brought here to test the matter of its spreading.

"*Smallpox*.—There has never been an epidemic of smallpox here. It happened to me to treat several cases of the disease in the spring of 1866. The disease was brought from Little Rock. The patients were at once isolated, and the disease did not spread. Occasionally a case of smallpox or varioloid is landed from a steamboat here, but the complaint has never been propagated from that or any other source.

"*Diphtheria*.—There has never been an epidemic of diphtheria in this section, and, indeed, I do not remember having seen a case of it in *twelve years*.

"*Influenza*.—An epidemic of influenza invaded this community in January of the present year. Since the first of March it has rapidly declined. Though intensely severe in many cases, it did not prove fatal in a single instance in the better classes. Among the negroes, particularly children, it has been attended with considerable fatality.

"*Dysentery*.—In the latter part of summer, and during autumn, dysentery is a common complaint—sporadic, however. But one epidemic of dysentery ever visited this section, and that was in the year 1857. It was of a most virulent type, and exceedingly fatal. In many cases within 48, and even 36 hours after the inception of the disease, collapse came on, speedily followed by a fatal issue. The complaint appeared to carry off more whites than blacks. The weather was unprecedentedly cool in the month of August, when the epidemic was at its height, necessitating the sleeping under blankets at night. Many people here yet remember that time with a shudder, and when the atmosphere becomes unseasonably cold in the summer numerous are the prognostications and fears expressed of 'flux.'

"*Scarlet Fever*.—I know of no other febrile disorder worthy of mention, as visiting this section, than scarlatina. About the year 1849 and 1850 it appeared in Camden as an epidemic. In many cases it assumed the malignant form, and

was attended with very great fatality. Ten years later it again made its appearance, but in the simple form, and I do not remember a fatal case of it.

“*Pneumonia*.—Pneumonia is not a very common affection with us, and those cases occurring are for the most part quite reasonable to treatment.

“*Remittent and Intermittent Fevers*.—Remittent fever is next to intermittent fever in point of frequency. Of the latter we are accustomed to witness every known variety, but the tertian form is the most common. Congestive fever is occasionally met with in the early fall months. This form of fever is, however, not common, but, when occurring, is frequently of very difficult management. I have observed that both remittent and intermittent fevers sometimes run into active congestion, but much more frequently does the latter than the former disease. I have noticed, moreover, that these instances occur, for the most part, with those who live on the *north side of swamps and marshes, and particularly when bodies of these lands are denuded of timber*, affording a fair sweep to the winds, which are almost uninterruptedly blowing from the south and southwest during the hot months, and taking up miasmatic matter and wafting it onward until, from dilution with pure air, or from other causes, it loses its noxious properties.

“In this connection—in relation to climatic fevers—it may be well to speak of a form of fever which I believe is known by several names, but here is more generally styled ‘miasmatic fever.’ Without entering into a detailed description of the disease, I shall merely mention its more prominent characteristics as presented in this locality. In addition to the usual train of symptoms peculiar to those attacks of remittent fever wherein there is a great degree of prostration and sinking of the vital forces, there are, at first, frequent and copious discharges of a *dark fluid from the urinary organs*, resembling blood and oil mixed, partaking of the appearance and characteristics of both. After the lapse of a period—varying from one to several days in fatal cases—there is a total suppression of the discharge; the skin of the patient becomes frequently of a bronzed appearance; delirium, low and muttering, sets in, and death soon closes the scene. In the favorable cases there is a gradual change in the character of the urinary secretion toward a normal standard; the skin clears, and the patient enters upon a tedious and protracted convalescence. In this form of malarial fever I think it is safe to say that one-fourth of the attacks prove fatal. I speak of the disease as it has been seen by me during the last summer and the summer before. The observations of others may differ from my own. The various symptoms are not identical in different cases. I kept no memoranda of the cases coming under my notice, but shall do so in future.

“The treatment, in different hands, has of course differed—diuretics, purgatives and supporting with quinia. Mercurial preparations have been used cautiously. I am inclined to the *diuretic* plan of treatment, nitrate of potassa and turpentine in large doses. I was impressed with the advantage of this course. My friend Dr. Williams assures me that under its exhibition five out of six patients recovered.

“The origin of this fever is certainly the same as that of remittent and intermittent fevers; the poison, from some cause peculiar, producing this train of symptoms. Our type of bilious or remittent fever is, for the most part, mild; rarely ever continuing beyond the sixth day.

“*Phthisis Pulmonalis*.—This disease is of rare occurrence, and is invariably hereditary. It is rare that a case of the disease is seen in persons who have been reared here, though the parents may have died of this malady after moving here from the older States. Certainly phthisis is not of easy development in this region.

“*Scrofula*.—Scrofula is rare and seldom manifests itself in its common forms. With us the ‘scrofulous diathesis’ is seldom seen.

“*Ozæna*.—I remember having seen only two cases in Camden. One of the cases is under observation at this time, and in this there exists the scrofulous diathesis.

“*Uterine Disorders*.—Diseases of this class are of rather common occurrence. In my own experience, ulcerations, or Meigs’ raspberry inflammation, about the os and cervix, are oftenest seen. I have not had the misfortune to see those ‘horrible’ cases of engorgement, induration, ulceration, etc., that are so frequently charged upon the womb. Among the disorders of menstruation with us, dysmenorrhœa is most common.

“*Cutaneous Ills*.—We have none of any importance.

“*Typhoid Fever*.—This disease, as described in books, is, I believe, not known here. We see the ‘low typhoid condition’ occasionally as the result of certain forms of fever, but never fully characterized by the symptoms peculiar to true idiopathic typhoid fever. Sometimes patients, in the condition spoken of, have sordes, and low muttering delirium, without tympanitic condition or tenderness of the epigastrium. Again, we may find the latter symptoms prominent, and former absent; and so of the other characteristics of this disease.

“*Topography*.—There is nothing of peculiar interest in the topography of this region. The past winter has been remarkably mild. Sudden transitions in temperature sometimes occur. On the first day of January, 1864, the thermometer went down to 28 deg. Fahr., but the cold only lasted five days. On the 13th day of March, at six o’clock P. M., the thermometer stood at 76 deg. At eight o’clock P. M. it rained; at nine P. M., there was sleet; at twelve o’clock, midnight, clear; mercury 32 deg. Fahr. At day-break the next morning it stood at 25 deg. Fahr. These were the only cold days of the season, the latter being the most remarkable vicissitude in temperature ever recorded here.”

We are indebted to Dr. W. D. Summers, of Murfreesboro, for the medical topography of Polk, Pike, and a part of Sevier counties. He reports the southwestern part of the State generally healthy. Intermittent and remittent fevers are the most prevalent autumnal and vernal diseases. Congestive fever is rare. Pneumonia frequently occurs during the autumn and winter. Typhoid symptoms sometimes follow pneumonia and remittent fever; but pure typhoid fever is a type of disease rarely ever seen in that mountain region. Dysentery

and diarrhœa prevail during the summer. In the lower part of the counties, among the cretaceous formations, enteric diseases are more common. Polk county is supplied with an abundance of delicious water. Streams and springs of pure water are found in the northern portion of Pike, and in part of Sevier county; but where chalk, marl, and shell deposits are found, the water is unhealthy and unfit for use. Cisterns have been introduced throughout this region of the cretaceous belt, and cistern water mostly employed.

We will now further consider the medical climatology of the interior—that intermediate country about Hot Springs and the counties adjacent to it—between the regions heretofore described, viz., at the capital, the northwest, southeast, south and southwestern parts of Arkansas. This division of the State is mostly an elevated country, composed of undulations, foot-hills and mountains. Delightful springs, spring-streams and rivulets abound throughout the area. The head waters of the beautiful Ouachita and Saline rivers rise here. The rich alluvial bottoms, valleys and vales, margining the tributaries of these streams, are sparsely inhabited. The settlers are chiefly engaged in husbandry. They are a hardy class; and diseases, save climatic fevers, pneumonia, dysentery and diarrhœa, which appear at certain seasons, are rare among them. Phthisis, scrofula and goitre are scarcely known in these elevations, and rarely originate here. Hepatic, splenic, renal, enteric and other functional ills of miasmatic origin sometimes prevail, but these attacks are generally very manageable.

*Malarial Fevers.*—Tertian and quotidian intermittents are the most common forms of fever. Quartan is less prominent. Double quotidian and octan types are met with occasionally. Severe congestive attacks, known here as “congestive chills,” sometimes occur, and death soon results when aloof from medical aid. Pernicious fevers, or any grave type of malarial fever, are rarely met with. Epidemics and endemics are unknown in this mountainous part of the State. Within the past 13 years no epidemics have prevailed at Hot Springs; and we have no history of the prevalence of any since its settlement. Cholera and yellow fever are here unknown. The atmosphere in this “pine section” appears to antagonize the invasion of these diseases. A form of ophthalmia prevailed in 1860-61 in some parts of Hot Springs and Montgomery counties. It was considered a malarial conjunctivitis. Scorbutic tendencies appeared among a few of the residents of Hot Springs and adjacent counties in 1860. It was known as “mountain scurvy,” and was readily relieved by dietetic means. A case of variola occurred at Hot Springs in 1858. Precautionary means were assumed, and the spread of the disease obviated. Vaccination, when practicable, is a resort as a supposed prophylactic in variola.

*Zymotic Diseases* are scarcely familiar here to the profession. Varicella (a pseudo type, or a malady that sometimes strangely courses the same avenues) was endemic at Hot Springs in 1868. Scarletina and diphtheria have never prevailed. Rubeola prevailed as an endemic in 1862, and again in 1868, attacking indiscriminately all ages, from childhood to adult life. It was not malignant, and few cases proved fatal. Cynanche parotidea was rife at Hot Springs in 1868. It was of a mild form, and no deaths resulted. Pertussis



prevailed for three or four months at Hot Springs in 1867. Croup is rare; asthma uncommon. Erysipelas, of idiopathic type, is unknown. Dengue is not familiar to us. Typhus and typhoid fevers are unknown. Typho-malarial condition and typho-pneumonitis sometimes supervene as a result of remittent fever and pneumonia. Rheumatism is not common. It is safe to state that gout never originates here. Uterine diseases and puerperal complications are very rare. We are unacquainted with any country in the same latitudinal relations that has more advantages for health. All the attributes that we regard are here found to contribute to health and longevity. No part of the continent within the same climatic realm is more salubrious than this mountain region of Arkansas. The spring and autumn months are generally pleasant; the summer months are not exhausting by extremes of heat. The nights throughout the hot months are cool and invigorating. The winters are mostly mild and short in duration.

The advantages of the climate throughout the entire year, the pure, rarefied mountain air, the delightful waters—all give promise that the thermal springs in this part of the State will soon be one of the most celebrated resorts for invalids in the United States. Thousands now annually visit these springs; but if they were rendered more accessible, by the facilities offered for travel by railroad, ten times the number would seek this renowned watering-place.

It is regretted that no satisfactory meteorological reports have been kept at Hot Springs, to give the daily mean temperature of the different seasons of the year. No medical society has yet been organized at Hot Springs. A record of the number of visitors arriving at the springs for each season, from April until November, has been kept from 1860 until the year 1871. The death-rate occurring annually among the visitors has also been a matter of record, but such statistics are of no practical worth. An effort was made to procure the meteorological observations taken at Helena, Arkansas, but the observations did not extend to a period long enough to report. The careful observations of the late Dr. Smith, of Washington, Arkansas, published among the papers of the Smithsonian Institution, and the accompanying meteorological reports will be sufficient to give climatic surface to a large portion of the State.

It is proper to note that the observations at Fort Smith were copied from *Blodget's Climatology of the United States*. We are indebted for the report of the observations at Little Rock for 1870, and the comparison in temperature drawn between that place and Dubuque, Iowa, to J. P. Henry's publication of the "*Resources of the State of Arkansas*." We are indebted to Dr. R. G. Jennings for the statement of the barometrical observations taken at Little Rock for 1871, by Geo. E. Dickson, Esq., at the office of the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad, and other meteorological reports for that year, furnished by L. G. Ripley, Hospital Steward, U. S. Army. We are grateful for all statistical information supplied by our respected friends to aid us in this report.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

*Amount of Rainfall at Little Rock, Arkansas, for the Year 1871.*

January.....	4.1	August.....	1.1
February.....	4.6	September.....	.9
March.....	6.6	October.....	2.1
April.....	9.9	November.....	1.4
May.....	5.3	December.....	.0
June.....	3.8		
July.....	4.0		43.80

THERMOMETER, FAHRENHEIT, AT LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS.

1871.	7 A. M.	2 P. M.	9 P. M.	Mean for month.	
January.....	36.45	48.60	44.13	43.06	Winter.....50.22
February.....	43.71	56.92	51.53	50.72	
March.....	48.96	64.09	57.48	56.88	
April.....	58.43	70.00	65.53	64.65	Spring.....72.32
May.....	65.42	77.67	70.03	71.04	
June.....	79.86	84.60	79.33	81.26	
July.....	80.00	84.90	81.53	82.14	Summer....80.29
August.....	81.43	91.54	84.67	85.89	
September.....	64.06	82.83	72.00	72.86	
October.....	55.80	72.74	61.77	63.10	Autumn...50.44
November.....	40.26	52.43	48.36	47.01	
December.....	35.38	43.93	44.64	41.31	
Average for year.....				63.32	.....

HYGROMETER AT LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS.

1871.	7 A. M.	2 P. M.	9 P. M.	Mean for month.
January.....	34.70	44.45	40.16	39.77
February.....	41.42	51.71	47.42	46.84
March.....	46.19	56.45	51.87	51.50
April.....	54.63	63.03	57.63	58.43
May.....	61.45	69.22	64.58	65.08
June.....	74.93	78.30	74.70	75.97
July.....	75.35	78.93	75.96	76.74
August.....	74.54	85.25	76.61	78.80
September.....	62.46	74.03	67.56	68.01
October.....	53.49	67.96	58.66	60.03
November.....	36.80	52.33	47.20	42.27
December.....	30.12	45.16	44.25	39.84
Mean for year 1871.....				58.68

## BAROMETRICAL OBSERVATIONS AT LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS.

1871.	Time.	Time.	Time	Mean.	Mean.	Mean.	Total.	Mean for Month.
	6 A. M.	12 M.	6 P. M.	6 A. M.	12 M.	6 P. M.		
January.....	873.58	876.08	873.60	29.59	29.68	29.60	88.87	29.62
February.....	819.77	822.67	820.69	29.27½	29.38	29.31	87.96½	29.32½
March.....	905.15	906.09	906.03	29.22½	29.22½	29.19½	87.65	29.22
April.....	878.02	877.00	877.78	29.26	29.23	29.25½	87.76	29.25
May.....	902.41	902.44	902.44	29.11	29.11	29.11	87.33	29.11
June.....	874.29	874.35	874.36	29.14	29.14	29.14	87.43	29.14
July.....	905.67	903.68	903.66	29.21½	25.15	29.15	87.51½	29.17
August.....	902.54	902.59	901.64	29.11½	29.11½	29.08½	87.31½	29.10
September.....	882.66	886.67	882.75	29.42	29.55	29.42	88.40	29.47
October.....	917.70	918.76	918.55	29.60	29.63½	29.63	88.87	29.62
November.....	882.63	879.77	870.90	29.42	29.32	29.03	87.77	29.26
December.....	927.40	929.50	926.51	29.91	29.98	29.89	89.79	29.93

## TABLE OF MEAN TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION IN RAIN AND SNOW AT FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS.

Latitude, 35.23; Longitude, 94.29; Altitude, 460 feet. Taken at the Military Post.

Thermometer from 1842 to 1854.		Barometer from 1837 to 1854.	
January.....	40° 2'	January.....	1.96
February.....	43.9	February.....	2.17
March.....	51.6	March.....	2.92
April.....	62.4	April.....	5.10
May.....	69.9	May.....	4.46
June.....	75.5	June.....	4.74
July.....	79.2	July.....	3.82
August.....	78.1	August.....	4.47
September.....	72.2	September.....	3.01
October.....	59.6	October.....	3.43
November.....	48.3	November.....	3.49
December.....	39.3	December.....	2.53
Spring.....	61.3	Spring.....	12.48
Summer.....	77.6	Summer.....	13.03
Autumn.....	60.1	Autumn.....	9.93
Winter.....	41.1	Winter.....	6.66
Year.....	60.0	Year.....	42.10

## THERMOMETRICAL OBSERVATIONS TAKEN AT 7 A. M., 2 AND 9 P. M., DAILY, AT LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, FOR THE YEAR 1870.

MONTHS.	Maximum.	Date.	Minimum.	Average Temp.
January.....	72°	9 to 19	26°	45°
February.....	69	15 " 20	14	46 4'
March.....	73	9 " 24	26	49 1
April.....	84	16 " 22	33	61 3
May.....	93	7 " 23	52	71 8
June.....	94	8 " 22	60	76 5
July.....	94	8 " 16	68	81 8
August.....	90	13 " 30	69	81 4
September.....	96	6 " 28	59	76 6
October.....	87	20 " 30	42	63 7
November.....	86	4 " 26	31	54 8
December.....	73	7 " 24	4	38 5

## THERMOMETRICAL OBSERVATIONS TAKEN DAILY AT DUBUQUE, IOWA, FOR THE YEAR 1870.

MONTHS.	Maximum.	Date.	Minimum.	Av'age Temp.
January.....	43°	16 to 17	6° below	21° 2'
February.....	51	20 " 26	7 do	25 3
March.....	52	16 " 28	4 do	30 8
April.....	82	13 " 24	28	52 9
May.....	87	3 " 22	48	67
June.....	102	7 " 29	56	74 5
July.....	100	25 " 30	58	77 9
August.....	95	5 " 20	51	70 8
September.....	88	7 " 19	51	65 9
October.....	72	1 " 31	26	50 7
November.....	60	6 " 22	22	39 7
December.....	51	1 " 23	12 below	24

## REPORT OF TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION AT MONTICELLO, DREW COUNTY, ARKANSAS.\*

MONTHS.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	Rainfall.
March, 1869.....	73°	42°	54°	6.75 inches
April.....	78	52	59 21'	10.50 "
May.....	82	62	61 6	3. "
June.....	86	72	78	5. "
July.....	93	78	89	3.75 "
August.....	99	80	95	3.75 "
September.....				.85 "
October.....	72	46	66	2.13 "
November.....	70	46	58	5. "
December.....	54	33	44 31	8.63 "
January, 1870.....				4.50 "
February.....				1. "

\* These observations were made at noon by DR. W. H. BARRY.

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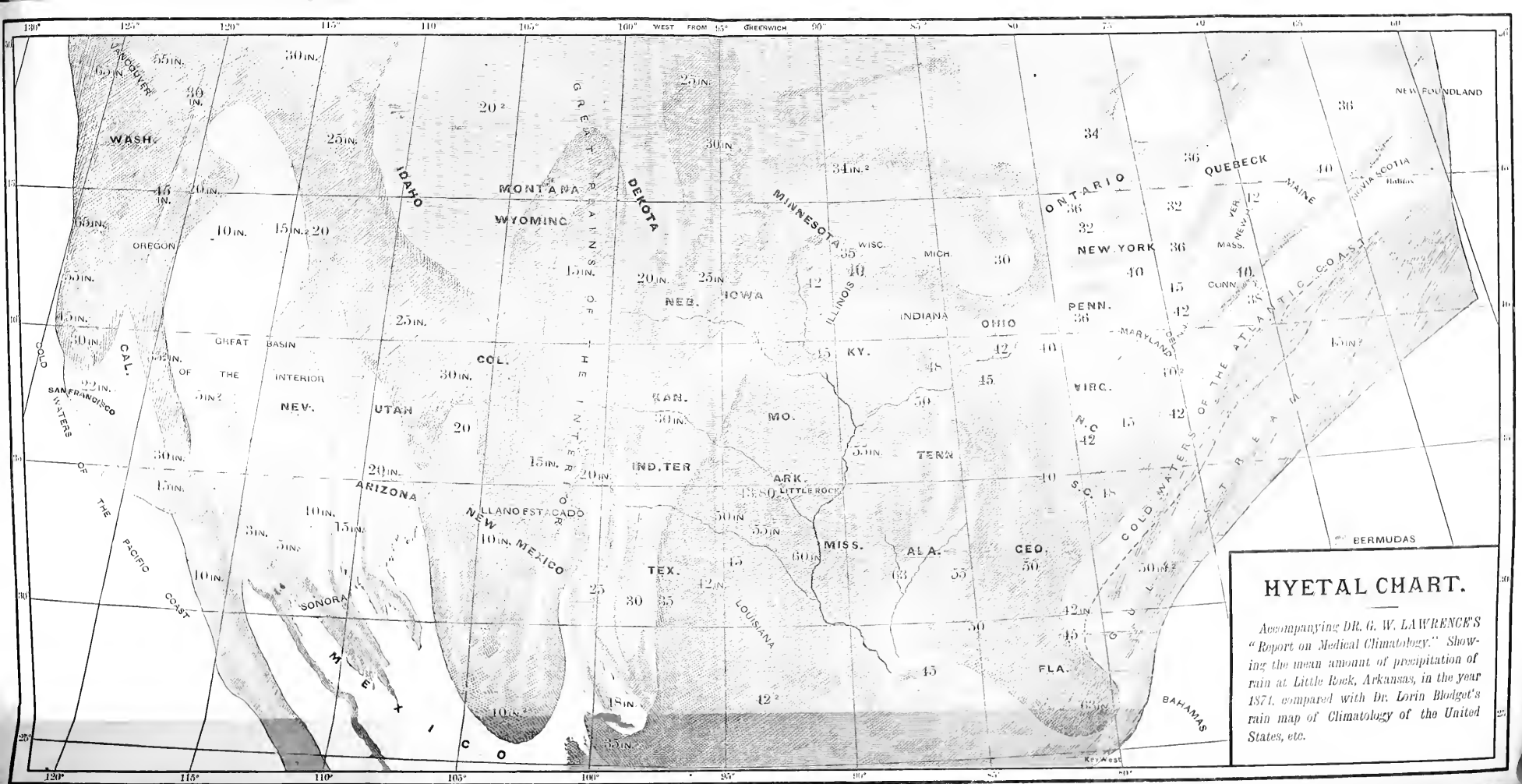
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## CHAPTER XVI.

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### CONCLUSION.

**B**EFORE bidding adieu to our readers it may not be amiss to give them a short sketch of the early settlement and past history of Arkansas, and, from the pen of a citizen, something of its present status as a place for home-seekers.

Arkansas was a portion of the French Territory of Louisiana, and was sold to the United States, by the treaty of Paris, in 1803. The first settlement in the State was made at the Arkansas Post, on the river of that name, about 70 miles above its junction with the Mississippi river. The country, within the present territorial limits of Arkansas was made a Territory in 1819, and it was admitted as a State June 15, 1836.

Arkansas lies between the parallels of 33 deg. and 36 deg. 30 min. north latitude, and extends through five degrees of longitude—from 89 deg. 40 min. to 94 deg. 42 min. west longitude. It is bounded on the north by the State of Missouri, on the east by the St. Francis and Mississippi rivers, on the south by the States of Louisiana and Texas, and on the west by the State of Texas and the Indian Territory. The present area of the State is 52,198 square miles, or 33,406,720 acres. The population in 1870 was 484,471. The physical configuration of Arkansas presents great variations of surface. The State is one of the great basin States of the Mississippi, on the west, for a distance of three and a half degrees of latitude and five degrees of longitude. The elevated parts of the State commence in the southern and eastern parts, soon developing into foot-hills and mountain ranges, and expanding into broad mountain tracts toward the north and west, until we meet the Ozark Mountains, which, commencing near Little Rock, extend north and westerly beyond the limits of the State.

The line of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad almost marks the division of the State into two great sections. The portion south and east of it is almost entirely alluvial and low lands, while that part north and west is hilly and mountainous. The first named section is only adapted to agricultural

purposes, whilst the other, besides containing millions of acres of valuable agricultural lands in its valleys and table-lands, has besides great stores of minerals imbedded in its hills and mountains. I shall not, however, trust to assertion to show the natural wealth of Arkansas. Jay Cooke has had folios written upon the beautiful climate and rich lands of "the banana belt" on the line of the Northern Pacific, and hundreds of people have been led by glowing accounts of mineral deposits to penetrate the far west, only to find their hopes blasted and themselves penniless; so that mere *assertion* of the advantages that Arkansas possesses will not weigh much with discriminating people. I shall do better than assert; I shall *prove* what I say.

Arkansas offers more advantages to the farmer than any other State in the Union. Bold words, my readers will say. But now for the proof: By referring to the census report for 1870 it will be seen that there were 49,424 farms in the State, containing 1,859,821 acres of improved land; 3,910,325 acres of woodland, and 1,827,150 acres of other land attached. (See vol. 2, table 3.) These lands, a total of 7,597,296 acres, with all the houses, fences and improvements upon them, were valued to the census-taker at \$40,029,698, or \$5.25 per acre, and this valuation was 50 per cent. higher than the one made for taxation. These lands, valued at \$40,029,698, produced in that year the sum of \$40,071,699, a little more than the entire valuation. Admitting that of all the improved land but 10 per cent. was in cultivation, we should have 1,673,939 acres of land yielding products valued at \$40,701,699, or \$24.30 to the acre. No other State in the Union makes such a showing. In New Jersey, where farming land is valued higher than in any other State, the average valuation being \$86.15 per acre, and the number of acres improved being 1,976,474, the value of all products, including orchards and market gardens, was \$46,998,770, or \$23.75 per acre. Wisconsin returned 11,715,321 acres of farming land, of which 5,899,343 acres was improved, the whole being valued at \$300,414,064, or \$25.50 per acre, and the products being valued at \$78,027,032; or deducting, as in the case of Arkansas, 10 per cent. of the improved land as not cultivated, the production per acre was \$14.65. Minnesota, with its 6,483,828 acres of farming land, of which 2,322,102 acres were in cultivation, and which was valued at the average of \$15.10 per acre, produced \$33,446,400, or \$14.40 per acre. Iowa, with 15,511,793 acres of farming land, valued at \$392,652,442, or \$25.35 per acre, only produced the value of \$114,386,441, or \$12.25 per acre. Nebraska, having 2,073,781 acres of farming land valued at \$30,242,186, or \$14.60 per acre, produced only \$8,602,742, or \$13.30 per acre. Kansas, with 5,656,879 acres of farming land, valued at \$90,327,040, or \$17.45 per acre, produced \$27,620,651, or \$14 per acre.

Now let us recapitulate, and see how some of these favored Northwestern States, which are represented as the paradise for emigrants, compare with Arkansas in valuation of farming land, and production from it per acre:

## RECAPITULATION.

STATES.	Value of land per acre.	Production per acre.	Percentage on money per acre.
Kansas.....	\$17 45	\$14 00	86
Nebraska.....	14 60	13 30	91
Iowa.....	25 35	12 25	48
Minnesota.....	15 10	14 40	95
Wisconsin.....	25 50	14 65	57
New Jersey.....	86 15	23 75	27
<b>Arkansas.....</b>	<b>5 25</b>	<b>24 30</b>	<b>465</b>

This table speaks for itself. It is no fancy sketch, evolved from the inner consciousness of some dreamer, but is taken from the most reliable statistical tables—the census of 1870. Five times the value of every acre of land in cultivation was produced in one year. Is not this

## THE GOLDEN STREAM OF PACTOLUS,

ready to flow into every farmer's pocket? I do not, however, intend to indulge in any rhapsodies. I am merely stating facts, for sensible men to read and profit by. It has been said that Arkansas and the South generally could only produce cotton, and that cotton could only be successfully cultivated by negro labor. Both these propositions are false. The farmer coming from the Northwest can cultivate corn, wheat, oats and other small grains in Arkansas, and will receive for as good cultivation heavier returns than in any of those States. With the most slovenly farming the wheat production this year is far above the average in the Northwest. And it is so of all the small grains. The farmers of this State have given grounds for the statement that nothing could be grown but cotton by their suicidal policy of neglecting everything else to cultivate cotton; but they are learning better, and the attention given to grain this year has proven these crops to be so profitable that they will not be neglected in the future.

Messrs. T. B. Mills & Co., Col. J. M. Loughborough and the State Centennial Board have all been engaged in collecting specimens of grain for exhibition, and by measurement found wheat six feet high, with six inch heads well filled; oats seven feet high, with heads 18 inches long; millet nine feet high, with nine inch heads; red clover that cut four tons to the acre; timothy five and a half feet high, yielding four tons to the acre; red-top four feet high, giving three tons to the acre; blue grass four and a half feet high; orchard grass five feet high and yielding three tons to the acre; Hungarian grass four feet high from the second crop this year; corn-stalks, one 19 feet high and another with 12 ears on it, five of which were 11 inches long. These specimens of small grain and grasses were exhibited at the St. Louis and Chicago Fairs last fall, and many people verified by actual sight what I am now telling. The farmer from the North and Northwest will find not only that he can cultivate successfully what he has done there, but that there is a diversity of crops here to which he is not accustomed, and therefore a better opportunity to make money. Everything in

the way of breadstuffs and food for stock can be raised here to better advantage than in the Northwest, and cotton can be added to it as a certain money-providing article. Another thing he will find is a

#### MILD AND GENIAL CLIMATE

We have no fierce winds coming directly from the north pole, and sending the thermometer down to 30 degrees below zero; no immense snows, burying houses out of sight and obstructing roads for days and weeks. The coldest weather last winter, and that was unusually cold and lasted but a few hours, the thermometer was at zero, while the warmest day this year it has been 98. Stock do not have to be housed and fed for six months in the year, but most of the time can run at large and feed themselves. Here a man can literally live under his own vine and fig tree, for there is no better grape country in the world than Arkansas. Men raised in German vineyards, and who cultivated the vine both in Ohio and California, now have vineyards here, and pronounce this State superior for grape-growing to either of the sections named. All the semi-tropical fruits and all those of the temperate zone grow well. Apples, peaches, pears, apricots, plums, etc., reach their highest perfection with the slightest attention. A farmer wishing to purchase 160 acres of land in Minnesota would, if he bought at the average price, have to pay \$2,400 for it. Here, at the average, it would cost him but \$800. His houses and fencing there would cost at least twice as much as their cost here, for lumber and timber are abundant and cheap. The man who can purchase a farm in Minnesota and commence farming, can buy a better one here and

#### SAVE HALF THE MONEY

for other investments, while many a one, whose limited means prevents him purchasing there, can here become an owner of the soil and be independent of landlords.

But Arkansas is not, as I have previously said, purely agricultural; the lumber-man, the miner, the manufacturer, the capitalists of all kinds will find here a rich field that is almost virgin, "where the harvest is great and the laborers but few." The forests of the Northwest are rapidly disappearing before the stroke of the axmen and the buzz of the saw, but there are 50 millions of acres of

#### TIMBERED LAND IN ARKANSAS

where every valuable variety of timber can be found. Professor Leo Lesquereux, in 1857 and 1858, was specially detailed by Professor David Dale Owen, then making a geological reconnoissance of the State, to examine into the botany and paleontology of the State, and his report shows the character of the timber. The aid of a scientific gentleman like Prof. Lesquereux is not, however, needed to show that Arkansas is well timbered. Any traveler who enters the State from any direction, by rail or river, will pass through miles of unbroken forests of the finest timber, almost in their primeval condition: Pine, oak of all kinds, walnut and black walnut, cypress, cedar, and hickory of the best quality are

found in various sections of the State. The timber of Arkansas is to-day worth more than the whole assessed value of the State, and it stands as that much unemployed capital, waiting to be utilized and turned into currency. Means of transportation and markets are ready, but the men and capital are wanting to open this "bonanza" and secure the wealth that will flow from it.

#### THE MINERAL DEPOSITS

that have been so long overlooked demand a share of our attention. The field is so large that I can hardly do justice to the subject, though I have spent months, I might say years, in the investigation. Of one thing I am fully satisfied, after careful observation and study, that I hazard nothing in saying that Arkansas has more mineral wealth than any other State in the Union. But it is undeveloped and almost unknown, though of late some attention has been directed to the subject. In 1857 Gov. Elias N. Conway appointed David Dale Owen State Geologist, and that year and the next he made a hasty reconnoissance. His report, which I have before me, shows that he found coal in abundance (he mentions 30 places), iron, argentiferous galena, zinc, copper, antimony, manganese, and bismuth. The minerals of the greatest utility and producing the greatest wealth to the community are coal and iron, lead and zinc; and first of coal. Prof. David Dale Owen, in his geological report, mentions 30 places where he found coal. In speaking of the coal measures of Arkansas, he says: "Moreover, the extraordinary horizontality of the geological measures in Western Arkansas causes an extensive distribution of the strata containing the coal either near the surface or at a depth where the combustible material may be easily reached." And again, when speaking of the ascertained limits of other coal measures, and of the situation and extent of those of Arkansas, he says: "This shows the great value of the coal strata of Western Arkansas, and the advantage that would result to the State from an extensive and rich coal deposit. Not only the navigation of the Arkansas river would at a future time depend upon it, but it would supply with combustible material the inhabitants of the western prairies and direct the future construction of railroads, which are generally attracted by the coal as by a powerful magnet." Since Prof. Owen's survey,

#### EXTENSIVE AND RICH COAL DEPOSITS

have been found, and some of them developed, while others are but waiting the advent of the capitalist to render up their stores of dormant wealth. The coal taken from the mines opened has proven to be of the best quality, and as Professor Owen said, they have proved "a powerful magnet," and have "attracted" a railroad. Both the Ouita and the Spadra mines are situated on the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad. The Ouita is in Pope county, and is 70 miles from this city. Cars loaded at the mine can be delivered in St. Louis, Memphis, or any part of Texas, as the Fort Smith Railroad connects with the Memphis and the Iron Mountain. The Ouita mine is in the hands of enterprising citizens of this place, and they are ready to deliver any amount needed. The analysis of the coal shows it to be semi-anthracite of the best quality, and Messrs. Chau-

venet and Blair, analytical chemists, of St. Louis, say of it: "The result of the coal is very surprising to us. No coal as good as this for iron smelting occurs in Illinois, and the low of sulphur—say one per cent—is an additional advantage." A comparative analysis made by them of noted coals results as follows:

## ANALYSIS.

COAL.	Water.	Volatile.	Fixed carbon.	Sulphur.	Ash.
Ouita.....	1.77	12.66	80.46	0.78	5.11
Pittsburg bituminous.....	1.31	36.61	54.17	0.77	7.91
Big Muddy.....	5.88	32.81	57.66	0.75	3.65
Meadows.....	6.75	36.80	42.00	4.91	14.45
Pacific.....	4.85	39.31	45.30	0.76	10.00
Pennsylvania anthracite.....	1.00	11.00	84.00	1.00	4.00

Extensive and satisfactory tests have been made in iron foundries, on railroads, steamboats, etc., and everywhere the Ouita coal is found the best. The Spadra mines, situated 30 miles west on the same road, produce even better coal than this—an article that has been tested in the blast-furnaces of St. Louis and smelted iron. The Horsehead coal, on the same road, has been put to every test, and in all has proven to be superior to the analysis above given. In each of these mines the vein is about four feet thick.

The cost of living at these mines is less than at any of the mines in the Northwestern or Middle States, and the coal can be mined more cheaply. Within a very short space of time the gap needed to connect the Fort Smith road with the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad at Fort Gibson will be closed, and by that route Kansas and the States north of it will be supplied with Arkansas coal. The Arkansas river, which for over 150 miles passes directly through the Arkansas coal measures, gives a cheap outlet that will enable the Arkansas coal to drive out all rivals from below its connection with the Mississippi river. But I cannot dilate longer on this subject, and must pass on.

## RICH IRON ORE

has been found in various sections of the State, and in some instances, as at Spadra, in connection with coal. The writer is confident that he can point out, within a mile of a railroad, a section of land that contains a coal-vein nearly four feet thick, limestone in abundance, and rich iron ore. There are several rich and extensive deposits of iron ore known to exist near transportation, the discoverers of which have not the money to enable them to work the mine, and are patiently waiting the arrival of men who can furnish it. "Looking-glass" iron-ore, now worth \$80 per ton, has been discovered in considerable quantities in different places, and in fact all the hilly portions of the State are rich in this most valuable ore.

## ARGENTIFEROUS GALENA

has been found in various sections. The Kellogg mines, eight miles north of this city, were worked years ago, and only abandoned because of the war. Since that time until lately the owners have neglected them, but a short time since resumed work with good results. The Beller mines, in Sevier county, in the southwestern part of the State, were discovered a short time previous to the late war. When it commenced they were abandoned, until the Confederate authorities had them worked to procure lead for the army. The ores from these mines are rich in silver. Professor Owen, in his report, gives the following analyses of two samples of lead from the Kellogg mines: "No. 1. A bright crystalline-looking ore, gave by reduction 81.7 per cent. of metallic lead; by cupellation this lead gave a silver bead weighing 1.06 per cent. of the lead employed, which is equal to 339.2 ounces of silver in a ton of 2,000 pounds." "No. 2. A porous, fine-grained ore, with particles of talc disseminated, gave 73.45 per cent. of metallic lead; this, by cupellation, gave .7 per cent. of silver, equal to 224 ounces in a ton of 2,000 pounds."

The specimens from the Beller mines yielded of lead 73 per cent. and by cupellation, of silver  $52\frac{1}{2}$  ounces to the ton of lead. Speaking of the Kellogg mines Professor Owen says: "A vein possessing very similar characteristics has been observed during the progress of the work in the last two seasons at various points in Saline, Montgomery and Pike counties." \* \* \*. The facts ascertained render it probable that the metaliferous veins exposed on Kellogg Creek, in Pulaski county, may be traced from that locality in a southwest direction to the Indian boundary and beyond, and perhaps also to a considerable distance to the northeast."

It must be remembered that this yield of silver is much larger than in many of the mines of Nevada and Colorado that are worked for silver alone. Professor Owen was right when he said that the Kellogg veins could be "traced southwest" through several counties. Subsequent explorations have proven this; and not only southwest but northwest, for silver-bearing lead has been discovered and is now being worked in Newton county, by experienced miners from the Joplin mines in Missouri. Besides the ore already mentioned, Professor Owen gives the analysis of many specimens taken from different parts of the State, not only of iron, coal and lead, but of manganese and zinc of exceptional richness.

What I have spoken of proves my assertion that Arkansas is the richest in minerals of any State in the Union, and I shall pass on to other subjects.

It has been said reproachfully of Arkansas that it was behind all the other States in the building of railroads, but the men who have and do say this do not reflect that Arkansas has

## 3,500 MILES OF NAVIGABLE RIVERS,

and that the more costly transportation of railroads has not been needed here so much as in States that are wholly dependent upon that method for the removal

val of crops. But when the map of the State is examined it will be found that Arkansas is not so deficient in railroads as has been alleged. It is true that there are but 850 miles of railroad in the State, but they have been judiciously built. The Cairo & Fulton, now called the

#### ST. LOUIS, IRON MOUNTAIN & SOUTHERN RAILROAD,

traverses the State from the northeast to the southwest, connecting at St. Louis and at Cairo with all the railroads of the northwest and east, and at Texarkana, on the Texas border, with the entire railway system of Texas.

This road passes through 13 counties, and is the great artery for trade and travel from the southwest. It owns 2,000,000 acres of land, within 20 miles of its track; is constructed in the very best manner, and is destined to be one of the great highways of commerce.

#### THE MEMPHIS & LITTLE ROCK RAILROAD,

commencing at Memphis, runs almost due west to this city 135 miles, passing through six counties, and connecting in the same depot with the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern and the Fort Smith railroads. At Memphis, where the trains are transferred by steamer, this road connects with the road leading to Louisville, Ky., and all points in the Middle States; with the Memphis & Charleston, which furnishes connection with all the South Atlantic States, and a direct line to the Eastern cities, and with the Mississippi & Tennessee, which gives a connection with the Gulf States and Alabama.

#### THE LITTLE ROCK & FORT SMITH RAILROAD,

starting from the Union depot at Little Rock, runs on a line a little north of west, near the north bank of the Arkansas river, and is finished to within 40 miles of Fort Smith, on the Indian border, and this is now under contract and will be completed before the first of July, 1876, when an extension of 50 miles through the Indian Territory will connect this road with the Missouri, Kansas & Texas road, and through it with all the railway system of Kansas and the far West.

The New Orleans, Pine Bluff & Little Rock Railroad is completed from Chicot City, on the Mississippi river, to Pine Bluff, on the Arkansas, and the 40 miles between that point and Little Rock will be built by July, 1876, when a new line of communication for St. Louis and all the Northwest will be opened to New Orleans and the South, reaching by rail the bank of the great river below all danger of ice or sand-bars.

The Arkansas Central (narrow-gauge) extends from Helena 60 miles west to White river, through one of the richest bodies of land in the world, and will soon be completed to this point. Thus, it will be seen that while we have not enough railroads, yet we have some of the most important lines built, and the feeders to the great highways will soon follow immigration. Enough of this, however. Let us turn to other subjects.

Arkansas is one of the best States for the establishment of



## MANUFACTORIES OF ALL KINDS.

There is now a considerable quantity of wool grown in the State, and our railroads put us in immediate and close connection with the wool-growing sections of Texas, destined soon to be the largest wool-producing part of the continent. The fact that the cotton-mills of England and New England are now closed, while those of Georgia and other Southern States are being run on full time, and are paying large dividends, is the best proof that cotton should be manufactured where it is grown, if the articles needed to assist in the manufacture can be conveniently procured. As I have already shown, coal for fuel exists here in great abundance and of the best quality, and there is more available water-power in Arkansas than in any five named States. These are sufficient reasons why cotton and woollen factories should be established here. But above all things, the abundance and variety of good timber and the proximity of markets point to Arkansas as the place for the manufacture of

## AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS AND FURNITURE.

Here we have every variety of timber used for these purposes, with living, labor and fuel cheap, and rail or water communication in every direction. No greater advantages can be found anywhere than are offered here for these classes of manufactures.

## STOCK-RAISING

is another branch of industry that can be followed here with very great profit. The mildness of the climate lessens materially the cost of raising any kind of stock. The ground never remains frozen during the day, but in the coldest weather thaws out whenever the sun strikes it. Almost every month in the year cattle, horses or sheep, running at large or in pastures, will find something to eat, making less feeding necessary. The hills and valleys are covered from April November with fine grasses, and the bottom-lands with switch-cane, always till green. As I have previously shown, all kinds of grain and grasses for feed can be raised in great quantities. In every part of the State, except the Mississippi bottoms, there is an abundance of pure cool water, and there is no reason why stock of all kinds cannot be profitably raised. All who have tried the experiment have made it a success.

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I have thus briefly glanced at the advantages of Arkansas for settlers of all kinds, and have quoted from the highest authorities to sustain my assertions. As much has been said about our taxes, before closing I will show what is the utmost limit of taxation permitted.

Under the constitution adopted in 1874 the State can only levy five mills for general purposes and five mills to pay the interest on the public debt. Thus taxes for State purposes can never be over one per cent., and one-fifth of this must go the public schools. The same limitation is laid upon counties and

municipal corporations. No county, city or town can levy more than five mills for general purposes and five mills for interest. This limitation extends to everything but school districts. The voters in each school district can tax themselves as much as they choose to vote for school purposes. Besides the tax voted by any school district, it is entitled to its proportionate share of the State school fund, which is made up of a two-mill tax levied on all the property of the State, of the poll-tax (which is one dollar on every man of voting age), and of all fines and forfeitures and sales of all lands belonging to the school fund. By this means each school district can provide for the education of its own children, and the State at large pays a portion of the expense. A law passed at the last session exempts all capital in manufacturing from taxation for seven years.

It is true that there are occasional outrages against law committed in the State, and the criminals often escape unpunished. This is not so much the result of bad laws as of vitiated public opinion, which is being rapidly corrected, and which the infusion of a few thousand law-abiding citizens from the Northwest would entirely cure. In fact, the "roughs" of border civilization are drifting away, and as they are swallowed up in the two great maelstroms of time and "the west," all the evils that sprung from their peculiar code will be among the things of the past. The question is often asked,

#### HOW ARE NORTHERN MEN TREATED?

and I answer that, with the exception of a few fossil remains of a past age, they are as well received and as well treated here as strangers would be in any country. In fact, they would be welcomed as the harbingers of the dawn of another day—a time of prosperity and peace. As a matter of course, strangers going into a strange land must first show, by their own actions, that they "are worthy and well qualified" before they will be treated as being so; but when this is done, the Northern man is as well treated here, and as welcome to a large majority of the citizens, as the Southern man. There is no question of the fact that thousands, both of the native and foreign-born citizens of the great Northwest, are dissatisfied. To such I say, Arkansas is the home you are seeking. Come and see it. You will not find my pictures overdrawn. Rich lands, good water, a genial climate and a hearty welcome await you.

## CHAPTER XV.

# Urtheil der deutschen Presse.

Die Herren L. B. Wills u. Co. sind bemüht, ihrem demnächst erscheinenden Buche auch unter dem deutschen Publikum die weit möglichste Verbreitung zu verschaffen, und haben darum die auf die Excursion nach Arkansas sowohl als auf die Produktionsfähigkeit von Arkansas bezüglichen Artikel aller deutschen Zeitungen Amerikas gesammelt und nachfolgend zusammengestellt. Es können sich daraus alle Deutschen, welche geneigt sind, sich in Arkansas niederzulassen, werthvolle Auskunft holen:

„Westliche Post,“ St. Louis, Mo.

Ernest B. Olshausen, Correspondent.

## Der Umschwung in Arkansas.

Arkansas ist einer derjenigen Staaten, über dessen Ackerbau-Verhältnisse im Ganzen noch wenig Positives zur Kenntniß des allgemeinen Publikums gelangt ist, natürlich nicht zum Vortheil jenes Staates selbst. Woran es aber zur Herbeiführung besserer Verhältnisse fehlte, das waren der Hauptsache nach fleißige, ausdauernde, mit der rationellen Ausbeutung des in vieler Beziehung reichen Bodens etwas vertrauten Farmer. Dazu bedurfte es einer zahlreichen Einwanderung von dem Schlage derjenigen, die bis jetzt ihren Weg nach Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin und Iowa nahmen. Und um diese zu gewinnen, mußte den Einwanderern die Aussicht auf einen möglichst guten Erfolg ihres Wagnisses eröffnet werden. In dieser Richtung sind nun in den leitenden Kreisen jenes Staates entscheidende Schritte gethan worden. In erster Linie ist hierhin der emigige Fortschritt in dem schon zum größten und bedeutendsten Theile vollendeten Weiterbau der Iron Mountain und Southern Railway zu rechnen.

Um der Presse Gelegenheit zu geben, sich über die in Arkansas dem Landwirthge gebotenen Aussichten zu informiren, war von der Verwaltung genannter Eisenbahn, unter der Leitung des Land-Commissioners J. W. Loughborough in Little Rock, eine Einladung an die Presse ergangen sich an einer zu diesem Zweck veranstalteten „Editorial Excursion“ zu betheiligen. In der Zahl von einigen 70 fanden sich denn auch am Abend des 28. Septembers die Repräsentanten der hervorragendsten Zeitungen aus allen West- und Mittelstaaten am Iron Mountain Depot ein. Der aus einem Passagier- und 4 Pullman-Schlafwagen bestehende Zug setzte sich gegen 9 Uhr in

Bewegung und die Excursionisten machten es sich in ihren reservirten „Berths“ bequem. Am Morgen des 30. befand man sich bereits auf dem Boden von Arkansas und jeder einzelne der Federfelden warf seinen Kennerblick auf die Umgegend. Die jumpfige Gegend, welche sich aus dem südöstlichen Missouri noch eine kurze Strecke in das nordöstliche Arkansas ausdehnt, war bereits überschritten. Wir passirten Moark, Corning und D’Kean (214 Meilen). Damit die Geister ihre Lebhaftigkeit nicht verlören, hatte Herr E. C. Priber, von der St. Louiser Branche der „Napa & Sonoma Wine Co.“, sich mit genügender Quantität eigenen Wachsthums von anerkannter Qualität versehen, wofür ihm gewiß Niemand gram war, denn der Vorrath von California Portwein und Rudesheimer verringerte sich doch allmählig, ohne jedoch auszugehen.

Kurz vor Newport am White River (225 Meilen, 84 M. von Little Rock) erblickten wir die ersten Baumwollpflanzungen, die, in Anbetracht ihrer noch ziemlich nördlichen Lage, doch recht gut standen, und läßt sich wohl behaupten, daß von dort an südlich die Baumwollkultur bei einigermaßen guter Wirthschaft schon ihre Zinsen bringen würde. Der Zug überschreitet den White River und erreichte gegen 2 Uhr Little Rock, wo ein Comité mit Musik die Gäste empfing. Man hatte für Beförderung derselben nach der Stadt die besten Vorkehrungen getroffen. Ein jedes der Comité-Mitglieder nahm einen Theil der Gäste in Empfang und geleitete sie in die eigene Wohnung, wo am Familientische das reichliche Mittagsmahl eingenommen wurde. Man hatte sowohl hierbei wie bei der nachfolgenden Verbauungs-Plauderei vollauf Gelegenheit, die Gastfreundschaft der Einwohner von Little Rock im Stillen zu preisen. Diese den Südländer sofort kennzeichnende Eigenschaft bewährte sich auch hier.

Auf einen Gange durch die Stadt wurde auch dem Saal der Handelskammer ein Besuch abgestattet, wo prächtige Proben von Baumwolle, Besenstern, Äpfeln und Birnen von der Productionsfähigkeit des Landes bereites Zeugniß ablegten. Ferner lagen dort Proben einer eigentlich erst seit Januar 1874 gewonnenen ausgezeichneten Kohle vor, welche aus Pope County, nicht weit von Little Rock, stammt. Die *Du it a Coal Co.*, seit Januar 1874 incorporirt, hat diese Kohle von Chauvenet und Blair analysiren lassen und erhielt die günstigsten Resultate, wonach die Illinoiser Kohle bei Weitem an Qualität übertroffen, und die Pennsylvanier beinahe erreicht wird, demnach getrost die Concurrenz mit anderen Kohlen aufnehmen kann. Mittelfst guter Transport-Gelegenheiten kann sie leicht zu \$6.50 bis \$7.00 per Tonne nach St. Louis geliefert werden.

Ein Gegenstand von besonderem Interesse in Little Rock ist das von *T. B. Mills & Co.* eingerichtete Lesezimmer mit über 700 Zeitungen, deren Zahl noch beständig vermehrt wird.

Am Abend des 29. ward für die Gäste in der Concordia-Halle ein glänzendes Bankett arrangirt, bei welchem alle Notabilitäten der Stadt zugegen waren. In den zahlreichen, rasch hintereinander folgenden Toasten wurde mit Recht das wiedererwachte und allenthalben sich offenbarende Gefühl der Eintracht und Zusammengehörigkeit der Nord- und Südstaaten mit Nachdruck betont. Dem Reichthum an Mineralien, Kohlen, Heilquellen und allen sonstigen Ressourcen wurden zugleich mit dem wiederauftauchenden Gewerbfleiß separate Toasts gewidmet.

So blieb man noch bis ein Uhr beim festlichen Mahle, zu welcher Stunde wir uns wieder in die Schlafwagen begaben, mit dem Bewußtsein, daß man nirgends einen freundlicheren Empfang erhalten kann als in Little Rock.

Früh am Morgen des 30. September in Malvern angelangt, ward den Excursionisten erst noch reichlich Zeit gegönnt, sich auszuschlafen. Dann erst verließen wir unsern Extrazug, nahmen das Frühstück ein, und bestiegen die schmalspurige Bahn, welche demnächst direct nach Hot Springs führen soll, bis jetzt aber erst zur Hälfte fahrbar ist. Wenige Minuten vor der Abfahrt photographirte Herr E. L. Reed von Hot Springs die ganze auf dem Zug befindliche Gesellschaft, welche, dann durch den dichten Wald dahinfuhr. Am Endpunkte der Bahn empfing uns ein Comité aus Hot Springs und geleitete uns in Post- und Ambulanz-Wagen und Kutschen nach Hot Springs, wo wir in mehreren der hervorragenden Hotels einquartiert wurden. Gleich bei Ankunft daselbst

wurden uns die Bäder zur freien Benutzung überlassen. Dieser Einladung folgte natürlich nach mehrstündiger Fahrt auf staubigem und höchst unebenem Wege Jeder gerne, mancher freilich nicht, ohne sich durch das ungewohnte heiße Bad eine Erfrischung zuzuziehen.

Wir erhielten dort die Gewißheit, daß Hot Springs zur Aufnahme von vielen Hunderten von Kurgästen auf's Beste vorbereitet ist.

Abends fand große „Reception“ und in zwei der größten Hotels großes Tanzvergnügen (vulgo „Hop“) statt.

Am 1. October, gegen 8 Uhr, wurde die Rückfahrt nach der Station der schmalspurigen Eisenbahn angetreten, und von hier aus, nach Malvern zurückgelangt, trennte sich eine Anzahl Theilnehmer von der Excursion und wandte sich wieder heimwärts, während die anderen ihren Weg nach Arkadelphia (zum Barbecue) und Legarkana fortsetzten.

Der Zweck dieser Excursion, den Mitgliedern der Presse einen Einblick in die Boden- und Communications-Verhältnisse des Staates zu gewähren, ist erreicht. Wir haben gesehen: daß Baumwolle, jegliches Obst, Wein und Getreide mit einigem Fleiß dort so gut cultivirt werden können, als sonstwo; daß in dem Inneren von Arkansas die werthvollsten mineralischen Schätze vorhanden sind; daß die Einwohner energisch bestrebt sind, ihren Staat in jeder Beziehung zu heben; daß die Einwanderer auf herzlichen Empfang und willige Unterstützung daselbst rechnen können; und daß Capital dort ebenfalls die vortheilhafteste Verwendung finden kann. Der Staat ist für alle Bedürfnisse von allerlei Communications-Mitteln durchzogen, und Ruhe und Ordnung herrscht im Lande. Freilich ist das für einen Missouriier noch keine Veranlassung, Arkansas vor dem gesegneten Missouri den Vorzug zu geben, es müßte denn auf Grund des milderen Klimas sein

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## Der „Volksfreund“, Cincinnati, Ohio.

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P. B. C. Thilly.

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Hot Springs, Ark., 1. Oct. 1875.

Nachdem ich am letzten Montag Cincinnati verlassen, ging es mit Dampfeschnelle dem Ziele meiner Reise, dem fernen Südwesten zu.

In St. Louis langte der Zug an Dienstag Morgen an, allwo sich die Betheiligten an der „Editors Excursion“ für Arkansas versammelten, um des Abends 9 Uhr per „Iron Mountain R. R.“ nach Little Rock abzufahren.

In St. Louis sind die Geschäfte noch viel flauer als in Cincinnati; in den bedeutendsten Straßen ist ein großer Theil von Läden geschlossen und zu verrenten, dennoch muß ich gestehen, daß die Stadt als solche sich in den letzten fünf Jahren bedeutend verbessert hat.

Als wir des Abends St. Louis verließen, hatten sich etwa 120 Vertreter verschiedener Zeitungen eingefunden, darunter etwa ein Duzend Deutsche.

Ich hatte das Vergnügen mit dem Achtb. Logan S. Root aus Little Rock eine Section in der Pullman Sleeping Cars zu theilen.

Die ganze Gesellschaft war kreuzfidel und wurden wir von verschiedenen lebenslustigen Herren—darunter Major Gibson vom St. Louis „Democrat“ und General Pierce von Little Rock—bis gegen Mitternacht durch hübsche Lieder und komische Vorträge erheitert. An einem guten Glase Wein und einem ächten alten „Bourbon“ fehlte es freilich auch nicht.

Am Mittwoch Morgen trafen wir in Pocahontas, Ark., ein. Die St. Louis und Iron Mountain Eisenbahn hat hier Verbindung mit der Cairo- und Fulton Bahn.

Pocahontas ist die Hauptstadt von Randolph Co. und zählt etwa 600 Einwohner; das County dagegen wird 8 bis 900 zählen, hat bereits über 60 Schulen, 25 Kirchen und ein Duzend Postofficen.

Von Pocahontas ging es nach Walnut Ridge, wo gefrühstückt wurde. In Walnut Ridge wurde einige Stunden angehalten, damit sich die Excursionisten die Gegend ansehen konnten. Schwarze Bären und Hirsche sollen noch massenhaft in dieser Gegend vorhanden sein. Herr Prof. J. Troll von Belleville, Ill., hielt uns allhier so mitten im Urwalde eine Vorlesung über sein Tellurium. Prof. Troll's Tellurium ist mit einem Uhrwerk in Verbindung gesetzt. Mitteltst dessen dreht sich der die Erde darstellende Globus in 24 Stunden von Westen nach Osten um seine Achse und in 365 Tagen ebenfalls von Westen nach Osten um die Sonne. Durch die erstere Bewegung werden die Tageszeiten veranschaulicht und auf einem kleinem Zifferblatt die Stunden angezeigt; durch die zweitemwähnte Bewegung und die sich gleichbleibende schiefe Stellung der Erdbachse zur Erdbahn wird die Ursache des Jahreszeitenwechsels und der Verschiedenheit der eigentlichen Tageslänge in den verschiedenen Jahreszeiten zur Anschauung gebracht. Ein Stäbchen, das als Träger eines Gleichgewichts dient, zeigt Monate und Tage an.

Während die Erdkugel jene Bewegungen ausführt, bewegt sich der Mond in 29½ Tagen von Westen nach Osten in excentrischer und zur Elliptic schiefer Bahn um die Erdkugel und mit derselben um die Sonne und gewährt eine klare Anschauung der verschiedenen Mondphasen und die Ursachen von Mond- und Sonnenfinsternissen.

Prof. Troll, der Erfinder dieses Apparats, ist Lehrer, er hält Vorträge über die oben erwähnten Erscheinungen, die er mittelst seines Apparates darstellt und erklärt; er hielt vor etwa fünf Jahren eine Vorlesung in der Cincinnati Turnhalle. Schließlich ist noch zu erwähnen, daß Herr Troll seinen jetzt verbesserten Apparat leicht auseinander genommen und namentlich, daß durch eine einfache Vorrichtung die Uhr von dem übrigen Räderwerk losgelöst werden kann, für den Fall, daß man die vollständige jährliche Bewegungen des Weltkörpers in wenigen Minuten vor Augen führen will. Zu diesem Zweck ist der Apparat mit einer kleinen Kurbel versehen, und kann hierdurch mit der Hand in Bewegung gesetzt werden.

Von Walnut Ridge fuhren wir direkt nach Little Rock Creek, wo wir außs freundlichste empfangen wurden. Die deutschen Bürger stritten sich förmlich um deutsche Gäste. Ich wurde von Herrn M. Kupferle eingeladen, welcher sich alle Mühe gab mir die Stadt und Umgegend zu zeigen. Herr Kupferle hält einen prachtvollen Saloon und ist gleichzeitig Agent für Kauffmann & Co. Lagerbier-Brauerei und kann man hier ebenso gutes und frisches Bier haben als in Cincinnati selbst.

Little Rock, die Hauptstadt von Arkansas, zählt nahe an 20,000 Einwohner, von welchen die Hälfte Deutsche sind; Dreiviertel der hiesigen Geschäftsleute sollen, wie mir gesagt wurde, Deutsche sein. Bis vor zwei Jahren gab es hier sehr viele deutsche Republikaner, aber jetzt ist es kaum möglich einen aufzutreiben. Herr Kupferle war so freundlich, mich des Nachmittags nach verschiedenen Cotton-Feldern zu führen, welche jetzt, da dieselben in voller Blüthe stehen, einen prachtvollen Anblick gewähren.

Die Baumwollenernte soll dieses Jahr eine sehr reiche werden, denn in der Nachbarschaft von Little Rock rechnet man auf 1½ Ballen per Acker. Des Abends war großes Banquet in der „Concordia-Halle,“ wo, wie immer, die üblichen „Speeches“ gehalten wurden. Dennoch muß ich den Bürgern von Little Rock vollen Credit für ihr herzliches Entgegenkommen geben, man sah ihnen an, daß sie es ehrlich mit ihren nördlichen Mitbürgern meinten. Ich hörte verschiedene Herren sagen: 100,000 deutsche Einwanderer ist alles, was unser Staat bedarf. Das Banquet dauerte bis 3 Uhr Donnerstag Morgens, wo sich die Gesellschaft über Malvern nach Hot Springs, dem amerikanischen Baden-Baden, begab. Nach Hot Springs gelangt eine Gesellschaft von etwa 150 Personen aber nicht so leicht, als ich es mir vorgestellt hatte, denn alle Carriages, Hacks, Buggies und Farmerwagen von etwa 50 Meilen im Quadrat, mußten requirirt werden, um uns am Ende der neuen Eisenbahn, etwa 20 Meilen nach Hot Springs, abzuholen. Ein schlechterer Weg läßt sich nicht leicht finden. Nun denke man sich unsere Parthie, dreizehn an der Zahl, hatten das Glück (?) einen Wagen, ungefähr so construiert, wie die großen Kohlenwagen, auf welchen fünf rauhe

Bretter quer überlagern, zu dieser Vergnügungsreise zu erhalten. Diese Fahrt wird den daran Theilhabenden noch Jahre lang im Gedächtniß bleiben. Als wir dennoch in Hot Springs angekommen waren, heiterte sich die ganze Gesellschaft gleich auf und innerhalb weniger Minuten war alles wieder guter Laune.

Hot Springs zählt bereits über 4,000 Einwohner. Die Hälfte der Geschäftshäuser sind Deutsche, worunter mehrere alte Cincinnatier.

Ich traf hier unter anderen General W. B. Walsh, ein früherer Schulkamerad von Herrn Jos. A. Heman, Geo. A. Remiger und H. Steinecke. Herr Steinecke ist mit dem Herrn Clark—auch ein früherer Cincinnatier—in ein elegantes Apothekergeschäft eingetreten, und macht hier ausgezeichnete Geschäfte, er läßt seine vielen Freunde in Cincinnati grüßen.

Auch traf ich Herrn Ottoma Topp im Hot Spring House. Herr Topp ist hier mit seiner Frau Gemahlin, welche bei ihrer Ankunft, vor etwa 10 Tagen, kaum gehen konnte, doch jetzt bereits ganz munter herumgeht. Die hiesigen Quellen sollen wirklich wunderbar wirken, dieselben liegen etwa 1400 Fuß über der Meeresoberfläche und einige hundert Fuß höher als das Städtchen, so daß fast jedes Hotel mit heißen Bädern versehen ist.

Das Wasser der heißen Quelle hat ungefähr 148 Grad F. und kann in demselben innerhalb 15 Minuten ein Ei weich gekocht werden.

Des Abends wurde den Excursionisten zu Ehren ein großer Ball gegeben, bei welchem es sehr lustig herging. Die junge Noblesse aus dem Staate Arkansas war vertreten. Es waren wenigstens 25 Generale und 50 Obersten anwesend. Ich glaube die Südländer sind noch mehr zur Titelfucht geneigt wie ihre nördlichen Mitbürger, wenigstens hörte ich niemanden mit einem niederen Titel als Colonel anreden. Also heute Morgen um 8 Uhr geht es wieder weiter über Malvern nach Arkadelphia und von dort nach Texarkana. Dem Programm gemäß soll in Arkadelphia ein—wie vor früheren Jahren—in Arkansas übliches „Barbecue“ abgehalten werden.

Thilly.

Little Rock, Ark., 3. Oct. 1875.

Eine böse Fahrt war es, die uns von Hot Springs Malvern entgegen brachte. Der Wagen, der uns hierhin beförderte, stand schon wieder des Morgens um halb acht Uhr vor dem „Arlington Hotel.“ Major Gibson von St. Louis, welcher sich bis dahin in bester Laune befand, verstummte auf einmal, als er denselben erblickte, und ich, ich dachte bei mir: Mein Gott, warum hast du mich verlassen!

Gegen halb neun Uhr setzte sich die Karavane in Bewegung, auch ging es eine Stunde lang so ziemlich, bis etwa 3 Meilen von Hot Springs entfernt, die Pferde eines Vierspänners, das Dritte im Gefolge—wir waren No. 4—scheu wurden und in rasendem Galopp den steilen Hügel hinunter jagten. Die beiden vorderen Gespanne waren gezwungen, sich in größter Eile aus dem Staube zu machen, um nicht vom Dritten überjagt zu werden und unser Treiber konnte seine Pferde kaum zurückhalten, so daß wir die ganze Katastrophe vor Augen hatten. So ging es wohl eine Viertelmeile bergab, bis eins der vorderen Pferde des dritten Gespanns mit dem rechten Vorderfuß in das Rad des zweiten Wagens trat und denselben gerade oberhalb des Hufes abbrach, wobei der Wagen an eine Fenz anprallte. Während dieser Wettfahrt hatten sich verschiedene Excursionisten durch einen kühnen Sprung zu retten gesucht; aber gerade diese waren es, welche leichte Quetschungen davon trugen. General Kottaten von Pulasky County, Ark., jagte dem beschädigten Pferde eine Kugel durch den Kopf und dann ging es weiter. Wir kamen um 2 Uhr des Nachmittags in Malvern an, allwo der Zug für Arkadelphia und Texarkana auf uns wartete.

Arkadelphia, die Hauptstadt von Clark County, liegt 75 Meilen südwestlich von Little Rock, am rechten Ufer des Washita River, zählt ungefähr 1500 Einwohner, war während des Bürgerkrieges ein Hauptstapel- und Waffenplatz für die Staaten Arkansas, Missouri und Louisiana. Clark County zählt nahe an 12,000 Einwohner, hat 25 Schulen, 18 Kirchen und 7 Postofficen. Dieses County scheint ein ausgezeichnetes für Einwanderung zu sein.

Nach Pulasky County würde mir Clark County am besten gefallen. Es wäre wohl hier am Platze, einige Worte im Allgemeinen über den Staat Arkansas zu sagen. Arkansas, der zwölfte Staat der Union, wurde am 15. Juni 1836 in den Vereinigten Staaten Verband aufgenommen, liegt nördlich von Louisiana, östlich von Texas und Indianer-Territorium, südlich von Missouri und westlich vom Mississippi River. Der jetzige Staat Arkansas ist ein Theil des Louisiana Gebietes, welches die Ver. Staaten 1803 durch Kauf von Frankreich erworben; hat ein Areal von 52,198 Quadratmeilen oder 33,406,720 Acker. Kein Staat der Union ist so reich an schiffbaren Flüssen, als Arkansas. Fast die ganze Ostgrenze des Staates wird durch den Mississippi gebildet, in dem sich sämtliche Gewässer des Staates sammeln. Der Hauptstrom ist jedoch der Arkansas, der mitten durch den Staat in einer Stromlänge von 500 Meilen fließt und auf der ganzen Strecke von Dampfbooten befahren werden kann. Der St. Francis, der auf 300 Meilen, und der White River, der auf 500 Meilen Dampfbooten zugänglich ist, bewässern den Nordosten. Im Süden fließt der Washita, der mit seinen zahlreichen Nebenflüssen eine schiffbare Stromlänge von nahe 1100 Meilen darbietet. Im Südwesten strömt der Red River, mit dem sich in Louisiana die im südlichen Arkansas entspringenden Flüsse vereinigen.

Der Staat Arkansas zählt jetzt etwas über 500,000 Einwohner, unter welchen schon eine beträchtliche Anzahl Deutsche sind.

Die ersten deutschen Ansiedler in Arkansas kamen zu Anfang der dreißiger Jahre und ließen sich in der Nähe von Little Rock nieder. Deutsches Leben findet man nur in wenigen Orten, mit Ausnahme Little Rock's, wo die Deutschen eine hervorragende Rolle spielen. In Little Rock waren schon mehrere Deutsche Mayor und hatten die Deutschen auch schon mehrere wichtige Ämter in Händen, es erscheint eine deutsche Zeitung all dort, und sogar der Hochw. Bischof Fitzgerald (ein Irländer) spricht sehr geläufig deutsch. Auch hier traf ich verschiedene alte Cincinnatiater, unter Andern Charles Ruß, welcher zweiundzwanzig Jahre in Cincinnati gewohnt, so wie Herr C. M. Lingell.

Die höher gelegenen Landstriche in Arkansas sind sehr gesund, während die Tieflande, obwohl sehr fruchtbar, dennoch ungesund sind.

Nach dem Bericht des Agricultur Departements in Washington erzeugte Arkansas im Jahre 1870 25,000,000 Bushel Korn, 1,251,000 Bsh. Weizen, 671,000 Bsh. Hafer, 890,000 Bsh. Gerste, 400,000 Bsh. Kartoffeln, 2,800,000 Pfd. Butter, 250,000 Pfd. Wolle, 350,000 Ballen Baumwolle u. s. w. Der Werth der Baumwolle belief sich nahezu auf \$30,000,000 und der des Indianer Korn's auf \$20,000,000.

Im Allgemeinen ist der Staat sehr fruchtbar, aber zeichnet sich dabei durch die schroffen Gegensätze in den verschiedenen Theilen aus. Während in der Kette der Masserne Hügel der graue Sandstein meist vollkommen nackt zu Tage liegt, werden in den Fluß-Thälern, die von dem reichsten Alluvialboden bedeckt sind, 50—60 Bushel Korn vom Acker geerntet.

Die Constitution des Staates Arkansas macht es zur Pflicht der Legislatur, Freischulen zu errichten und zu erhalten, dennoch sieht es jetzt etwas traurig aus. Die Carpetbagger haben die Staatskasse so ziemlich ausgeleert und das Volk so ausgefogen, daß einstweilen nicht viel geschehen kann; aber ein Gutes haben diese Blutigel bezweckt, nämlich sie haben dem Bürger einen solchen Respekt vor der republikanischen Partei beigebracht, daß wohl für das nächste Viertel Jahrhundert an keine republikanische Regierung zu denken ist.

Im Allgemeinen sind die Bürger allhier zur „Inflation“ geneigt, d. h. für Abschaffung der Nationalbanken.

Man beobachtet den Wahlkampf von Ohio mit großem Interesse allhier, und erwartet bei einem bedeutenden Siege der Demokraten bessere Zeiten.

Von Little Rock werden ein Theil der Exkursionisten nach Fort Smith und der andere nach Memphis reisen.

Thilly.



## Der „Omnibus,“ Louisville, Ky.

Wilhelm Krippenkapel.

Die Theilnehmer an einer Excursion in den Staat Arkansas, in welcher gegen achtzig Zeitungen, namentlich aus dem Nordwesten vertreten waren, sind fast ohne Ausnahme mit der Ueberzeugung zurückgekehrt, daß dem Staate Arkansas eine große Zukunft bevorsteht. Die Verhältnisse sind jetzt im Staate geregelt und sobald eine lebhafte Einwanderung sich nach dort Bahn bricht, muß derselbe in Folge seiner Lage und klimatischen Verhältnisse einer der blühendsten Staaten des Südens werden.

Die Cairo u. Fulton Eisenbahn durchschneidet den Staat Arkansas nach Texas zu und bildet direct die große Verkehrsstraße zwischen St. Louis und dem Süden nach Houston, Galveston, Austin, San Antonio, Loredo und nach Mexico. Die Bahn läuft durch ebenes Land und scheint sehr solid gebaut zu sein, und berührt auf ihrem Wege viele kleine Orte und Farmen.

Der Boden ist leicht, die Waldungen bestehen in Eichen, Eschen, Gummi, Hickory, Sycamore und andern Laubbölzern, hauptsächlich aber in Tannen, welche man selten schlanker und größer antrifft.

Der Mineral-Reichtum ist bereits profitabel und verspricht dem Staate reiche Ausbeute und Gewinn; liefern doch jetzt bereits die Minen Kohlen und Erze, namentlich Silber, Blei, Eisen, Kupfer, Zink u. dgl. zur Exportation.

Am Wild hat Arkansas Ueberfluß, namentlich an Bären, Hirschen, Rehen und kleinerem Wild.

Die Excursionisten langten am 29. in Little Rock an und wurden von den Bewohnern auf das Herzlichste empfangen und bei den Bürgern einquartirt, welche mit der dem Südländer eignen, thümlichen Gastfreiheit ihren Wünschen zu entsprechen suchten. Die meisten Excursionisten besuchten Nachmittags die Cottonfelder, woselbst die Baumwolle eben gepflückt wurde. Der Preis ist ca. 12½ Cts. per Pfund und für das Pflücken wird ein Cent per Pfund bezahlt. Der Arkansas Fluß befand sich im schiffbaren Zustande. Herr Kupferle, der eine Anzahl deutscher Theilnehmer an der Fahrt als Gäste in sein hübsches Haus nahm, führte dieselben auf leichtem Fuhrwerk nach dem Felsen Big Rock, welcher auf dem südlichen Ufer des Flusses höchst romantisch liegt, während der Little Rock, nach dem die Stadt den Namen führt, oberhalb desselben liegt. Das Land ist hier außerordentlich fruchtbar, es producirt einen Ballen Baumwolle per Acker und kaum man keinen besseren Boden für Baumwolle im ganzen Staate finden, wie auch der Farmer ausgezeichnetes Land für Korn, Frucht und Getreide aller Art in jeder Richtung trifft. Herr Kupferle wußte zuvorkommend für seine Gäste zu sorgen und ihnen die Sehenswürdigkeiten der hübschen Stadt, die über zwölf Tausend Einwohner zählt, deren Straßen das beste Nicolsonpflaster, zu zeigen.—Zu Ehren der Touristen fand Abends ein großes Banket statt, bei dem es weder an allen denkbaren Delikateessen, noch an den gebräuchlichen Reden fehlte.—Das deutsche Leben in Little Rock ist ein recht gemüthliches, das Publikum ein sehr intelligentes und der politische Einfluß unserer Landsleute ein bedeutender.—Die Zustände sind jetzt geregelt und alles solide und gesichert.

Am 30. September setzte sich des Morgens um 3 Uhr der Zug wieder in Bewegung und gelangte bald nach Malvern, der Station, von der man Hot Springs nach einer Fahrt von über achtzehn Meilen per Kutsche erreicht. Gegenwärtig aber ist eine engspurige Bahn nach Hot Springs im Bau, von der bereits fünf Meilen befahren werden und gegen Ende dieses Monats zwölf fahrbar sein sollen. Der Weg ist schrecklich holprig, weshalb es für Hot Springs ein großer Vortheil wäre, wenn die Bahn rasch vollendet würde.

In Hot Springs wurde die Gesellschaft ebenfalls herzlich empfangen und in den geräumigen und bequemen Hotels untergebracht, wo ihnen die Badeanstalten zur Verfügung gestellt, die nach einer langen und beschwerlichen Landreise in Folge des empfindlichen Staubes gerne benutzt

wurden.—Die Preßmenschen hatten hier übrigens Gelegenheit, sich entweder als Liebhaber des „Sports“ zu bekunden, oder als Berichterstatter eines Bärenkampfes zu fungiren. Es war nämlich zwischen dem Herrn eines schwarzen Bären und dem Eigener von zwei großen Bullenbeißern um die Summe von \$100 in einem hübschen öffentlichen Garten außerhalb der Stadt ein Kampfsarrangirt, dem viele Excursionisten beimohnten. Der Bär war an einer langen, um einen Baumstamm geschlungenen Kette befestigt und die Hunde wurden, während die Zuschauer einen Kreis bildeten, auf ihn losgelassen. Die Meute packte sofort an, der Bär aber wälzte sich und schlug die Hunde zurück; der Kampf währte mit wechselndem Erfolge unter großem Galloß fast eine halbe Stunde, als Jemand den Vorschlag machte, den Bär von der Kette loszulassen, welches alsbald geschah. Das Publikum flüchtete auf die Einfriedigung oder suchte sonstwie Schutz, und Hunde und Bär jagten sich recht lustig im Garten zum Gaudium der Zuschauer umher. Als die Bestien eine kleine Nebenabtheilung des Gartens betraten, folgten die Zuschauer durch den schmalen Eingang, während Bär und Hunde plötzlich wieder in den Hauptgarten sprangen, manchen Federhieb auf den Rufen schleudernd. Der Kampf übrigens blieb unentschieden.—Abends großer Ball im Arlington Hotel mit obligaten Heden.

Hot Springs mit einigen Tausend permanenten Einwohnern, hat häufig 2,500 Badegäste, welche leicht Unterkommen finden, da die Stadt größtentheils aus Hotels besteht. Es liegt der Länge nach romantisch zwischen zwei Hügeln, hat wunderbare heilkräftige Quellen, von denen einige einen Wärmegrad von 160 F. erreichen und mehr als 500,000 Gallonen Wasser per Tag auswerfen, hinreichend für 10,000 Badegäste. Die berühmten Heilkräfte der Wasser sollen sich namentlich bei chronischen Leiden bewähren, und in Fällen von Rheumatismus, Scropheln, Hautausschlägen, Leberkrankheiten, Asthma, Dyspepsia u., sowie gewissen anderen Krankheiten, wunderbare Heilung bewirkt haben und die Heilkräfte der meisten europäischen Bäder übertreffen, zumal die klimatischen Verhältnisse wohlthuend auf den Patienten wirken. Die Quellen sollen schon 1539 De Soto bekannt gewesen sein und werden von vielen alten Autoren erwähnt.

Das Wasser der Quellen ist heiß genug um Eier in kurzer Zeit zu kochen.—Zwei der Eigenthümer der Quellen und des Landes in dieser Gegend geriethen über den Besitz einer Quelle in Streit und hatten natürlich nichts Eiligeres zu thun, als sich einander um Entscheidung und zwar an die Gerichte zu wenden. Vor diesem Tribunal bewies nun Jeder dem Andern, daß er gar keinen gesetzlichen Besitztitel habe und so sah das Gericht sich schließlich gezwungen, Beiden das Eigenthumsrecht abzuspochen. Darnach würde also die Regierung die kostbaren Ländereien eignen; der Prozeß hat jetzt alle Instanzen durchgemacht und harret der letzten Entscheidung seitens der Supreme Court in Washington, von der es bekanntlich keine Appellation mehr giebt. Da diese offenbar die früheren Urtheile bestätigen wird, so sieht man baldigst, der Zeit entgegen, in der die nöthigen Anlagen für große Hospitäler und elegante Gebäude gemacht werden. Bis jetzt liegen die Quellen in ihrem Urzustande auf den Hot Springs nördlich der Stadt; die ganze Hügelfette zeigt einen vulkanischen Ursprung und Charakter und die Quellen stehen offenbar mit vulkanischen Kräften im Innern der Erde in Verbindung.

Die Deutschen in Hot Springs bemühten sich nach Kräften, die Excursionisten zu unterhalten und ihnen die Lichtseiten ihrer von der Natur so reich gesegneten Stadt vor Augen zu führen. Sie scheinen daselbst der irdischen Güter nicht zu entbehren und werden ihren Wohlstand noch bedeutend vergrößern, sobald die Supreme Court erst einmal den Prozeß entschieden hat, die Eisenbahn vollendet sein und sich eine genügende Anzahl von Farmern und Gärtnern niedergelassen haben wird, denn bis jetzt wird noch jeder Krautkopf von St. Louis dahin transportirt.

Am Freitag Morgen traten die Excursionisten wohlgemuth die Heimreise an, und einer der Theilnehmer sagt hierdurch für erwiesene Aufmerksamkeit herzlichsten Dank.



# „Belleuille Zeitung,“ Belleuille, Ill.

J. Troll.

Am Abend des 28. September fuhr ein Zug von dem Iron Mountain Bahnhofe in St. Louis ab, welcher außer der Locomotive und ihrem Fütterungswagen, aus einem Gepäckwagen, einem gewöhnlichen Eisenbahnwagen und aus 4 der außerordentlich bequem eingerichteten Schlafwagen, theils von Pullmann, theils von Wagner, bestand. Diese Wagen enthielten etwa 90 Vertreter der Presse, namentlich aus den Mittel- und nördlichen Staaten der Union. Der Zweck der Reise war Kenntnissnahme vom Staate Arkansas, um durch dieselbe die Editoren verschiedener Zeitungen zu befähigen, solchen ihrer Leser, welche die Wanderlust befaßt oder solchen, die etwa aus Gesundheitsrückichten ein wärmeres Klima suchen, oder denen, die ihr übriges Geld in Ländereien anzulegen beabsichtigen, oder solchen, welche ergiebigeres Land suchen, als etwa das sein mag, welches sie bisher bebauten u. aus eigener Anschauung die Verhältnisse von Arkansas schildern zu können; da eigne Anschauung unbestrittener Maßen gründlicher belehrt, als Karten und schriftliche Anpreisungen.

Ich suche nun den, von den betreffenden Bürgern von Arkansas gehegten Erwartungen um so lieber gerecht zu werden, als ich voraussetze, daß die hier folgenden, während meiner Reise entworfenen Notizen einem oder dem anderen Leser der Belleuiller Zeitung von Nutzen sein könnten: dem Einen, wenn sie ihn zum Gehen bestimmen, und dem Andern, wenn sie ihn zum Bleiben veranlassen. Um das Ding nicht gar zu hölzern, oder zu wässerig erscheinen zu lassen, beschreibe ich nicht bloß Wälder, Flüsse und Sümpfe, sondern lasse da und dort etwas wirkliches Leben dazwischen schauen—Leute, wie sie essen und trinken, tanzen und singen, arbeiten, spekuliren u.

Das lieblichste Herbstwetter begleitete uns auf der ganzen Reise. Der Himmel, in der Nacht der Abfahrt, war von wundervoller Klarheit; die Sterne zwinkerten ihr silbernes und goldenes Licht mit so ungewöhnlicher Helle auf die vom Zuge durchbrausete Gegend herab, als wollten sie es den Reisenden ermöglichen, auch ohne das Licht der Königin des Tages ihren Geist mit klaren Eindrücken der nächstlich vorüberziehenden Landstrecke zu bereichern. Aber ihr freundliches Streben blieb ohne nennenswerthen Erfolg; man konnte wohl sehen, ob die Landschaft eben, oder hügelig und gebirgig, ob man durch Wald fuhr oder unbeholztes Land; aber das war auch Alles; die Umrisse einzelner Gegenstände verschwammen in einander, und in der Hoffnung, daß man auf der Rückfahrt das jetzt Verlorne werde erkennen könne, folgte man allgemein dem Fingerzeig des dienstthuenden Schwarzen, der, wie man zu sagen pflegt, im Handumdrehen über je zwei Sitzen zwei der weichsten, mit damastenen Vorhängen dicht beschirmten Betten herstellte, und—legte sich schlafen. Ich habe seit langer Zeit kaum besser geschlafen, als in jener Nacht; aber der am Abend gefaßte Vorsatz, so viel als möglich von dem Lande zu sehen, durch welches der Zug führte, ließ mich schon mit dem ersten Morgengrauen erwachen und aufstehen. Einer der Ersten jeden Morgen stand ich auf der Plattform und blickte in den finstern Wald hinein. Der Morgen war kalt, und ich zog mich bald ins Innere zurück und postirte mich an ein Fenster, nachdem ich mich in meinen vorsichtshalber mitgeschleppten Winterüberrock gesteckt hatte.

Um 5 Uhr Morgens erreichten wir Poplar Bluff, Mo., etwa 20 Meilen nördlich von der Arkansas Grenze und 72 Meilen südwestlich von Cairo. Hier mündet die Cairo und Arkansas und Texas R. R. in die St. Louis Iron Mountain und Southern R. R. Der Ort ist noch sehr klein, ganz von Wald umgeben und liegt am Bladriver, wenn ich nicht unrichtig belehrt wurde. Der Holzbestand ist durchschnittlich üppig zu nennen; der Boden scheint ein grauweißer Lehm zu sein.

Moark ist der erste Anfang eines Städtchens dem wir in Arkansas begegneten. Es besteht vorläufig nur aus wenigen Bretter und Block Häusern und bildet gleichsam die Wache an der Grenzlinie der beiden Staaten, oder die Grenzmarke. Der Wald zwischen Poplar Bluff und Moark ist sehr eben, stellenweise sumpfig.—Etwa 10 Meilen von Moark hielt der Zug an, um Holz für die Lokomotive, wie unser colored man sagte, einzunehmen. (Dies war jedoch nicht die ein-

zige Abänderung, die er sich mit dem Namen unserer Zugmaschine vorzunehmen erlaubte: Je nachdem ihm diese oder jene Silben zuerst auf die Zunge kamen, nannte er sie verschieden, als: Molokotiv, Komolotiv, und ich glaube, im Laufe der Zeit bringt er alle 24 möglichen Versetzungen heraus das e als stumm angenommen.)

Ich bemerkte einige Pflanzen in prächtigem Blüthenstand, und da sie mir fremd vorkamen, stieg ich aus, sie zu pflücken, um bei der Heimkunft Hr. Kleins Pflanzenammlung, (die Gelehrten meines Herbarium, wahrscheinlich um diese Art Sammlung von einem Heu- oder Weizenschober zc. zu unterscheiden, welches doch wohl auch Pflanzenammlungen sind) — also um das Herbarium eines Lehrers damit zu bereichern. Es winkten mir noch andere, allein es lag ein sehr starker Thau auf dem fast mannshohen Grase, und dies und ein Blick auf meine Schuhe hielten mich ab, dem ersten Impuls — weiter zu gehen — zu folgen. „Ein Blick auf meine Schuhe“ bedarf der Erklärung. Es war nämlich in jener Nacht etwas geschehen, was seit vielen Jahren nicht passiert ist: Meine Schuhe standen am Morgen so blank gewischt unter dem Bette, als wären sie dazu bestimmt, als Nasirspiegel zu dienen, und da wäre es doch schade gewesen, eines Unkrautes wegen, die freundliche Arbeit unseres Darkey's zu zerstören. Verschiedene Asklepias und die Goldruhe zc. die hier vorkommen, waren auch dort in sehr üppiger Blüthe.

Als der Zug wieder im Gange war, wurden uns Cigarren und ein Morgentrunke angeboten: feurigen Rothwein und ächten Cognac; man konnte wählen, oder auch von beiden genießen. Es war dies die wohlthuende Frucht eines erleuchteten Gedankens, der — darauf will ich schwören — nicht dem Gehirn einer Wasserratte entsprang, und in stillem Vergnügen, oder vergnügter Stille schlugen dem freundlichen Spender die Herzen noch wärmer in der Morgenkühle, obgleich wir ihn nicht kannten (wahrscheinlich Gen. Loughborough mit Gen. Mills die Veranstalter der Excursion.) Nachdem wir noch mehrere Waldlichtungen passirt, auf denen je ein Blockhaus stand — (oft auch mehrere), erreichten wir Wallnutridge, ein Dörfchen aus 13 Häusern bestehend. Es war 8½ Uhr und mit allgemeinen Vergnügen folgte man dem Rufe: „Zum Frühstück!“ Mit voller Befriedigung verließ jeder den Tisch; man hatte uns in diesem kleinen, abgelegenen Dörfchen ein Frühstück aufgetragen, wie es in dem besten Gasthose in einer Großstadt Ehre gemacht haben würde. Wir mußten hier das Vorbeipassiren eines nördlich gehenden Zuges abwarten, und ließen uns die Zeit unterdessen vertreiben von einem vor etwa 1 Jahre in der Gegend jung eingefangen — jetzt zahmen — schwarzen Bären durch allerlei tolles Zeug, das wir uns mit ihm erlaubten und er sich mit uns; wenn ihm unsere Späße zu dick kamen, setzte er sich bloß in eine drohende Stellung und die ungebetenen Störer der Bärenruhe stoben nach allen Windrichtungen auseinander. Man hat ihm eine eigene bequeme Höhle mit engem Eingange in die Erde gegraben, wohin er sich in Augenblicken äußerster Gefahr zurückzieht.

Die Bärenunterhaltung sagte nur einer kleinen Zahl längere Zeit zu. Da ich meine astronomische Uhr mitgenommen hatte, und manche der Herren Editoren ein Interesse dafür zeigten und ihre Einrichtung kennen lernen, sowie von der Art und Weise ihres Gebrauchs als Illustrationsmittel sich überzeugen wollten, hatten mich einige Herren ersucht, diese Wartezeit zu einer Erklärung der genannten Dinge zu benutzen, worauf ich selbstverständlich mit Vergnügen einging. Aber es kam nicht dazu; denn kaum hatte ich den Apparat in der Hand, um ihn auf die Plattform des Depot's zu bringen, als es zum Einsteigen läutete, da der erwartete Zug heranbrauste. Im Verlaufe der Fahrt gab ich diese Erklärungen mehreren kleinen Gruppen, da der Raum es nicht anders gestattete.

Bis Wallnut-Ridge fuhren wir seit Morgens 5 Uhr stets durch Wald und, so weit man sehen kann, scheint es durchaus nicht, daß dies sich ändert. Der Boden ist durchweg eben, und der Obergrund besteht aus Lehm, dessen Farbe wechselt von weiß zu grau und gelb. Korn, das an verschiedenen Stellen der Bahn entlang gepflanzt war, scheint theils von guter Qualität, theils nicht von besonderer Ueppigkeit. — Man merkte, daß wir dem Süden zuzuhren. Die Sonne brannte schon um 10 Uhr Vormittags drückend heiß zum Wagenfenster herein und machte es räthlich, daß man sich gegen ihre heiße Zudringlichkeit durch Zuziehen dichter Vorhänge schützte, nur eine Guckspalte offen lassend. Da eben fahren wir seit dem frühesten Tagesgrauen durch den ersten Erdeinschnitt. — etwa 5—6 Fuß tief und 70—80 lang, in der Nachbarschaft einer Dampf-Sägemühle, in deren Nähe sich eine — mehrere Acker umfassende Baumwollenpflanzung befindet; auch unweit Poplar Bluff

am Black-River sah ich eine solche. Dieses Städtchen liegt zum Theil auf niedrigen Hügeln (Bluffs), daher wahrscheinlich sein Name, in Verbindung mit dem Umstande, daß Pappeln (Poplar) auf denselben wachsen.—Nachdem wir noch mehrere größere Baumwollensplanungen, rings von Wald umgeben, passirt hatten, erreichten wir um 11½ Newport am Whiteriver. Der Ort besteht aus etwa 30—35 theils kleineren, theils mittelgroßen, aus Holz gebauten Häusern, beinahe alle an einer Straße. Am Bahnhof waren etwa 50 Ballen Baumwolle aufgestapelt, der Verschickung harrend. Etwa 1 Meile nördlich liegt Jacksonport, am selben Flusse. Das Wasser des White River erscheint hier grünlich, welcher Umstand also jedenfalls nicht Pathe bei der Taufe war. Unweit Newport (etwa 1 Meile) führt eine gute, geradlinige Brücke—mit hölzernen Strebebalken im eisernen Hängewerk—über den Fluß, der hier in majestätisch ruhiger Größe unter ihr hinzieht. Die Ufer sind nicht sehr hoch. Die Baumwollensfelder mehrten sich; ihrem Aussehen und dem üppigen Holzwuchs nach zu urtheilen, ist das Land hier gut. Weiter hin, auf einer baumlosen Bodenerhöhung liegt Baldmound (oder vielleicht mit t anstatt d am Ende) nur wenige Häuser zählend. Etwa 50 Meilen nordöstlich von Little Rock liegt Insonia am Little Redriver, ein Städtchen von etwa 400 Einwohnern. Es befindet sich daselbst eine Universität, eine Mahl- und Sägemühle, Kirchen genug und verschiedene Werkstätten zc. Seiner Lage nach mag es eine bedeutende Zukunft haben. Ein junger Mann bestieg da unseren Zug und vertheilte kleine Pamphlete, die Universität betreffend.—Je mehr wir uns Little Rock näherten, desto zahlreicher und ansehnlicher werden die Embryo künftiger Villages, Towns und Cities. Da der Tag, wie schon erwähnt, sehr heiß war, so anerkannten wir Alle lobend den guten, menschenfreundlichen Einsall eines Little Rocker Weinhändlers, der uns herrliche und zugleich reichliche Proben seines Lagers entgegen gesendet hatte. In unserer Gesellschaft bemerkte ich keine Liquor-Feinde; es müßte denn sein, das Temperenzler, wo man sie nicht als solche kennt, ihren Abscheu vor geistigen Getränken verlieren, und die böse Welt behauptet wirklich, diese Erfahrung schon vielfältig gemacht zu haben.

Ein Viertel nach drei Uhr langten wir in Little Rock an, wo wir von einer Musikbande und einer Menge der hervorragendsten Bürger am Bahnhofe empfangen wurden. Die Bürgerschaft hatte sich die Ehre ausgebenen, uns gastlich zu bewirthen, und mancher derselben zog mißvergnügt ab, als Niemand für ihn übrig blieb, und somit die liebe Ehegalt sich umsonst bemühte, ein festliches Mahl für die erwarteten Gäste zu bereiten.

Ich war in Gesellschaft von 4 andern Herren von einem freundlichen Amerikaner requirirt, als Herr Pinzel, als Stellvertreter von Hrn. Kraemer, Ex-Mayor der Stadt, welcher wenigstens ein halbes Duzend haben wollte, und noch keinen Einzigen hatte, von jenen Herren sich einige der Gäste ausbat. Ich war jedoch der Einzige, der ihn zu verlassen sich entschloß, und hoffe daß er es nicht als Unhöflichkeit betrachtet haben wird. Ich wurde per Buggy zu Herrn Kraemers Behausung gefahren, die hübsch gelegen, geräumig, sehr bequem eingerichtet und reich ausgestattet ist. Nach sehr freundlichem Empfang wurde ich zum Badezimmer, beziehungsweise Wasch- und Toilettenkabinet geleitet, wo ich abermals fand, wie wohlthätig und erfrischend nach 18stündiger Eisenbahnfahrt eine gehörige Waschung wirkt.

Nun gieng an die reichbesetzte Tafel und es ist nur zu bedauern, das Herrn Kraemers Verlangen noch wenigstens einem halben Duzend Gästen nicht entsprochen wurde, damit die ausgezeichnete Köchin augenscheinlicher wahrgenommen hätte, wiegut ihre Gerichte schmeckten. Nebenbei hält Herr Kraemer einen ausgezeichneten Wein, in der Nähe von Little Rock gezogen, sowie angenehmduftenden Cigarren. Bei Tisch leistete mir Hr. Kraemer, sein Schwager, Hr. Reichert, Hr. Pinzel, Schwiegersohn von Hrn. Eisenmaier in Summerfield, St. Clair Co., so wie Hr. Kohlenberger, Zuckerbäcker, Gesellschaft. Nach Tische folgte ich der freundlichen Einladung meines Gastwirthes, eine Spazierfahrt zu machen, um die Stadt und ihre Umgebung näher in Augenschein zu nehmen. Auf einem andern Buggy begleiteten uns Hr. Pinzel und Hr. Kohlenberger,—Hr. Reichert war durch Geschäfte daran verhindert. Die Stadt liegt auf dem rechten, hohen Ufer des Arkansas Flusses, auf einer reichen Ebene, mit einem herrlichen Hintergrund von bewaldeten kleinen Anhöhen, hinter welchen auf eine weite Strecke sich sehr ergiebige Farmen befinden. Die Stadt zählt etwa 3500 Einwohner, die Straßen sind theilweise mit prächtigen Schattenbäumen bepflanzt und die Geschäfte sollen im Allgemeinen sehr befriedigend gehen. Die Stadt bietet im Ganzen ein wohlhabendes Aussehen, und zu ihrer Vergrößerung sind noch viele Tausende von prächtigen Bauplätzen vorhanden.

den. Am östlichen Ende der Stadt liegt das U. S. Arsenal, das einige Compagnien Soldaten beherbergt und von hübschen Schattenbäumen umgeben ist. Von den Zermürnsissen, die letztes Frühjahr herrschten, nimmt man jetzt nichts mehr wahr. Daß geordnete Zustände sobald wiederkehrten ist größtentheils dem energischen und klugen Auftreten des Herrn Kraemer, damaligen Mayors, zu verdanken. Nach der Rückkehr von der Mundfahrt wurde dem feurigen Rothen noch etwas zugesprochen dann gings zum Abendessen, nachher war ein Rauch- und Planderstündchen, verschönert durch Klaviervorträge von Fräulein Kraemer, und um 8 Uhr etwa wurde aufgebrochen zum Banquet, das die Stadt den Editoren zu Ehren gab. Herr Kraemer war kurz vor dieser Zeit krank gewesen und durfte es noch nicht wagen, an dieser Festlichkeit theilzunehmen; da wir aber gleich vom Banquet zum Bahnhof sollten, um weiter zu reisen, so verabschiedete ich mich von Hrn. Kraemer und von seiner liebenwürdigen Familie. Hr. Pinsel begleitete mich zum Banquet, nachdem wir auf dem Wege dahin in Hrn. Rückert's geräumigem Lokale, in angenehmer Gesellschaft, ausgezeichnetem Bier gebührende Ehre angethan hatten. Auf dem Banquet selbst, was ja der Name bedeutet, wurde gegessen, wenn man noch Lust hatte, Champagner und andere gute Weine getrunken, Havanna's geraucht, und sehr viele Reden gehalten, in welchen die reichen Hitzquellen hervorgehoben wurden, welche sich dem Ansiedler in Little Rock und in Arkansas überhaupt bieten. Um 1 Uhr Nachts ging dann die Fahrt weiter südwärts, und wohl Jeder von uns überließ sich willig den Armen des Morpheus.

Vorerst eine Berichtigung; Little Rock möchte sonst böse werden: Entweder durch ein Versehen des Verfassers oder des Setzers, ist in der vorigen Nummer die Einwohnerzahl dieser Stadt auf 3500 anstatt auf 35,000 angegeben. Als wir am Morgen erwachten, stand der Zug auf dem Bahnhofe des kleinen Städtchens Malvern, etwa 65—70 Meilen südwestlich von Little Rock. Wie lange er vor unserm Erwachen schon da gestanden, konnten wir aus der Länge des zurückgelegten Weges nur ungefähr vermuthen; denn die Anstrengungen in der ersten Hälfte der verfloßenen Nacht hatten bewirkt, daß der Schlaf uns zu fest umfangen konnte, als daß wir uns um die Uhr und die Zeit hätten bekümmern können. Nachdem wir uns Alle erhoben, den Schlaf aus den Augen gewaschen und einen kleinen Spaziergang in der angenehmen Morgenfrische gemacht hatten, um unsere Umgebung zu besichtigen, wurden wir etwas nach 7 Uhr zum Frühstück eingeladen, das in den zwei daselbst befindlichen Gasthäusern unserer erwartete. Es war nicht so ausgezeichnet, wie das in Walnut Ridge, aber immerhin annehmbar und willkommen. Von Malvern ist eine schmalspurige Zweigbahn nach dem etwa 25 Meilen nordwestlich gelegenen Hot Springs im Bau begriffen und an eine Strecke von 7—8 Meilen in befahrbarem Zustande. In Eile wurde der sogenannte Konstruktionsstrai mit Eisen aus Brettern versehen, und um etwa 8½ Uhr fuhren wir ab um besagte 8 Meilen auf diese Weise zurückzulegen. Gleich außerhalb Malvern gewinnt die Gegend ein Ansehen wie die Gegend zwischen Ogles und Centreville Station, an der Cairo Short Line, wo kleine Thälchen mit bewaldeten niedrigen Hügeln abwechseln. Angekommen am Endpunkte der Bahn, gewahrten wir etwa 16 Fuhrwerke der verschiedensten Art, f. g. Coaches, Hack's, Omnibusse und Expreßwagen, auf die wir nun verpackt wurden, um nach dem noch 17 Meilen entfernten Hot Springs gebracht zu werden. Diese Fahrt war interessant, aber nicht besonders angenehm. Sechs bis sieben Meilen ging es dahin auf einem Weg, der diesen Namen ganz gewiß nicht verdient. Hügel auf, Hügel ab, Felsstücke ohne Zahl, ebenso Bäume, denen auszuweichen war; denn immer gings durch Wald. Dachte man sich zu sichern, indem man sich rechts neigte, wurde man augenblicklich nach der linken Seite gefährdet; immer gings in Galopp, und die Geschicklichkeit der Treiber war in der That erstaunlich: Wenn man Jemanden gewisse Stellen des Weges (wir wollen bei diesem unpassenden Namen bleiben, in Ermanglung eines passenden) zeigen würde, könnte er unmöglich glauben, daß man in so schneller Wendung, bei so holperiger Unterlage, mit einem Wagen mit 4 Pferden bespannt, in so schnellem Laufe durchkommen könnte ohne den Wagen zu zerschmettern; und trotzdem geschah kein Unglück. Etwa 800 Schritte vom Einsteigeplatz verließen wir jedoch unsere Fuhrwerke und gingen etwa 1 Meile weit zu Fuß, da es zu steil ging und die armen Pferde unser Mitleid erregten. Nach der erwähnten Strecke von 6—7 Meilen mündete der Holzweg in einen mehr befahrenen ein, der aber in allem Uebrigen von gleicher Beschaffenheit war, und trotzdem unterhielten wir uns gut durch Singen und Plaudern; aber Jeder freute sich, endlich das erschente Hot Springs vor sich zu sehen, in das der Weg sich langsam hinabsenkt. Vor uns auf der andern—der westlichen Seite des Städtchens, das lang hingestreckt in einem schmalen Thale liegt, gewahrten wir eine hohe

bewaldete Hügelreihe, oder richtiger Bergreihe, noch im frischesten Grün. Da waren bei mir alle die Strapazen der Fahrt, die davon getragenen steifen Gelenke und alle Müdigkeit vergessen. Die Erinnerung an die lieben, anmuthigen und romantischen Schwarzwald-Berge und Thäler und so mancher darin miterlebten Idylle vermischten all dies bei dem Anblick dieses prächtigen Panoramas.

Der Haupttheil von Hot Springs das etwa 6000 Einwohner zählt, besteht aus nur zwei Reihen Häuser, welche an der durch das Thal sich hinwindenden Straße entlang erbaut sind, von dieser Hauptstraße zweigen sich einige kürzere in schmale Seitenthälchen ab, die ebenso bebaut sind. Die Häuser sind alle aus Holz aufgeführt, da Niemand sich zu kostspieligeren Bauten versteigen mag, indem kein einziger Hausbesitzer zugleich auch Eigenthümer des Bauplatzes, sondern nur Pächter desselben ist, und selbst dies nur eine eng beschränkte Zahl von Jahren. Ueber das Besitzrecht wird nämlich ein schon lange hingezogener Proceß geführt, zwischen Hrn. Rector, Ex-Gouverneur von Arkansas als Claimant einerseits, und der U. St. Regierung andererseits, welche behauptet, das Land, als zu der von der Regierung vorbehaltenen Mineralländerien gehörig, könne nicht vergeben werden. Vorläufig aber bezieht Hr. Rector, wie man mir mittheilte, jährlich etwa 100,000 Dollars Grundpacht; da wird er wohl nicht viel dagegen haben, wenn der Proceß sich etwa ein halbes Jahrhundert weiter hinzieht. Außer vielen kleinen Gast- und Kosthäusern sind drei große vorhanden: das Hot Spring Hotel, Central Hotel und das Arlington Hotel, welches letzteres—erst vor einem Jahre erbaut—das größte ist; außer dem Southern Hotel ist kaum ein anderes in St. Louis das geräumiger und bequemer eingerichtet ist, und bessere Bedienung und ausgezeichneteren Tisch bietet, als dieses. Daß es an Kaufläden, Trinklokale, Kirchen u. s. w. nicht fehlt, versteht sich von selbst, auch für Schulen ist gesorgt. Eine Strecke von 1½ Meilen führt eine Pferde-Eisenbahn durch die Stadt. Das Klima ist sehr mild; Schnee im Winter ist eine Seltenheit, und wenn je welcher fällt, ist er flugs wieder verschwunden. Wer sich mit Landbau abgibt, kann jedes Jahr zwei Erndten von demselben Stück Feld einheimfen.

Auf die Herrn Editoren zurückkommend, habe ich nachzutragen, daß auf dem Wege zwischen dem Endpunkt der Eisenbahnfahrt und Hot Springs mehrere Marschälle zu Pferd in Zwischenräumen uns entgegengesandt wurden. Der erste war Hr. Rector, Sohn des oben erwähnten Herrn, ein Gentleman im wahren Sinne des Wortes. In Little Rock selbst wurden wir im Arlington Hotel von den angesehensten und—selbstverständlich—schönsten Damen, sowie den hervorragenden Bürgern aufs freundlichste bewillkommt, worauf wir in den verschiedenen Hotels unsere Quartiere bezogen. Ich blieb im Arlington Haus. Nach einer nöthigen und erwünschten Waschung ging in den sehr großen Speisesaal, um den anfangs knurrenden Magen—es war schon halb vier Uhr—zu befriedigen. Es wurde nach der Karte gespeist, und die Auswahl war eine sehr reiche und die Speisen delicat. Nach dem Essen besuchte ich die heißen Quellen, die in großer Zahl aus der Westseite der östlichen Höhen hervorsprudeln, in ihrer Mitte nur eine einzige kalte Quelle: während der westliche Höhenzug unter vielen kalten nur eine einzige warme zu Tage fördert.

Ohne diese Quellen wäre wahrscheinlich gegenwärtig noch kaum die Blockhütte eines nach Erzen Suchenden in diesem Thale, und so gewährt nun der Ort jährlich Tausenden von Fremden Obdach, die dahin wandern, um ihre verlorene Gesundheit durch den Gebrauch der Bäder und durch das milde Klima wieder zu erlangen. (Da ich der Eigenschaften der verschiedenen Quellen in einem früheren kurzen Aufsatze gedacht, so komme ich hier nicht darauf zurück.) Es sind auch s. g. Armenbäder daselbst errichtet. Nach dem Besichtigen, Befühlen und Verkosten der dampfend heißen Quellen (von 140—160 Grad Fahrenheit) stieg ich ins Thal hinab, und demselben entlang weiter per Eisenbahn—die bald von Nord nach West abbog—bis zu einem Park. Da ich aber sah, daß die Unterhaltung in einem absichtlich—hoffentlich nicht für uns—veranstalteten Hundekampf bestand, wofür man noch 25 Cents bezahlen sollte, ging ich nicht hinein. Solcher Thierquälerei mochte ich selbst nicht einmal nahe sein. Ich wendete mich zur Stadt zu Fuß zurückzu-kehren. Hätte ich gewußt, was ich erst zu spät erfuhr, so wäre ich noch etwa ½ Meile zwischen den Hügeln weiter gegangen, wo ich zu dem einzigen Steinbruch in der Stadt (so sagt man) gekommen wäre, wo der Hornstein gebrochen wird, aus welchem die feinsten bekannten Polirsteine gefertigt und nach allen Theilen der Welt verschickt werden.

Der Hornstein bildet einen sehr großen Bestandtheil jener ganzen Berg- und Hügelreihe



aber er ist durchgängig von gröberem Korn, als der aus besagtem Bruche. Auf dem Rückwege an mehreren Hornsteinhügeln vorbeipassirend, nahm ich einige kleinere lose Stücke mit, von denen jetzt eines mir zum Schärfen meiner Messer prächtig dient. Aus jenem Bruch wird die Unze für 15 Cents verkauft. Der merkwürdigen Aneinanderreihung von Hornsteinhügeln, Schieferhügeln und Conglomerat-Hügeln habe ich in meinem vorläufigen Berichte schon erwähnt. Etwa 8 Meilen weiter im Gebirge findet man die schönsten Bergkristalle. In Hot Springs bilden sie einen Handelsartikel; man sieht da Stücke, in denen Hunderte von Prismen, große und kleine, in den wunderlichsten Lagen sich aneinander gefügt; einzelne kleine werden für 50 Cents, die zusammengefügten Pracht-Exemplare bis zu \$25.00 verkauft. Des Magneteisen-Erzes habe ich schon früher Erwähnung gethan.

Bei meiner Rückkunft besuchte ich Hrn. Kübler, der vor mehreren Jahren von hier als Patient dahingekommen war und sich jetzt in bester Gesundheit und wohlhabenden Umständen befindet. Er hält ein Boardinghaus, @ Person zu \$30.00 den Monat. In den Hotels werden viel höhere Preise gefordert und bezahlt.

Etwas nach 7 Uhr in mein Quartier zurückgekehrt, ging ich, gleichzeitig mit Andern, zum Abendessen. Eine Stunde später war der sehr geräumige Speisesaal zum Ballsaal umgewandelt; denn uns zu Ehren fand am Abend ein Ball statt, bei welchem Manche bis gegen Morgen ausschielten. Die Damen von Hot Springs entfalteten dabei ihren Reichtum an werthvollem Schmuck und Sammt- und Seidenkleidern mit langen Schleiern. Bei dieser schauerhaften Mode ist es gut, wenn—wie es hier der Fall war—der Boden schön sauber ist; man würde sonst in Staube ersticken. Zuerst wurden wieder hochstylige Reden gehalten, mit zweckentsprechendem Inhalt, glücklicher Weise nicht allzulange. Dann ging das Tanzen los. Die Nichttänzer, wozu ich zählte, sammelten sich in Gruppen und verbrachten die Zeit mit Plaudern, wobei von Zeit zu Zeit der Gaumen wieder mit Champagner angefeuchtet wurde, den man den fremden Gästen in einem Nebenzimmer kredenzte. Ehe ich zu Bette ging, machte ich noch einen kurzen Spaziergang, zu dem mich noch das Kimmern der Sterne einlud, die an dem dunkelblauen Himmel, zwischen diesen Bergen, viel glänzender leuchteten, als wir in der Ebene sie zu sehen gewohnt sind. Nach erquickendem Schlafe wurde am andern Morgen das Frühstück eingenommen, und nach freundlichem Abschied verließen wir nach 8 Uhr dies gesegnete Stückchen Erde, Jeder auf demselben Fuhrwerk, das ihn hergebracht. Einige Meilen von Hot Springs, als der Weg einen Hügel hinabführte, ereignete sich ein Unglück: An einem der Fuhrwerke brach die Kette am Sperrbalken; der nächstfolgende Wagen war zu nahe und der Weg zu schmal, um den Pferden die Zügel lassen zu können, weshalb der betreffende Kutscher, um die Passagiere des vor ihm befindlichen Wagens nicht zu gefährden, die Pferde mit aller Kraft zurückhielt. Dabei that das linke Deichselpferd mehr als seine Pflicht und Pferde und Wagen wurden dadurch nach dem Niegelsaun links am Wege hingedrängt, wobei eines der Pferde so unglücklich und mit solcher Gewalt in die Niegel eintrat, daß das Fußgelenk, wie abgeschnitten, vollständig vom Fuße losgebrochen wurde und nebenbei erhielt es eine furchtbar klaffende Wunde am obern Theil des Unterkiefers, daß das Blut strömend floß. Das arme Thier gab ganz eigenthümliche Schmerzenslaute von sich, wie ich sie nie zuvor von einem Pferd gehört hatte. Der Sheriff, der uns mit andern Herren das Geleite gab, hatte einen Navy-Revolver bei sich und erlöste es durch einen wohlgezielten Schuß von seinen Leiden. Ohne weiteren Unfall ging die Fahrt dann weiter bis zur Eisenbahn, auf der wir den Rest des Weges bis Malvern zurücklegten. Unser alter Zug nahm uns hier zur Weiterfahrt nach Südwesten wieder auf. Da ich das Hauptgeschäft des auf dieser Strecke Wahrgenommenen in dem mehrerwähnten frühern Bericht bereits angeführt habe, trage ich hier nur Weniges nach, das mir Characteristisch erschien: 1. An einem Haltepunkte, südlich von Malvern, stand ich gerade auf der Plattform des Wagens, als ein Neger und ein Weißer den Zug bestiegen; Letzterer schien ein Eisenbahn-Bediensteter zu sein, und wurde von Jemand gefragt, was er suche. Die Antwort lautete: That damned nigger has to hunt for the fleece of an old man, but I guess he'll not find it. Er meinte natürlich einen alten Mann; nicht seinen Pelz, oder sein Fell; und diese Bidersprache bei diesem roh aussehenden Menschen fiel mir auf. Bei dem Herauskommen des Schwarzen—eine große, kräftige Figur—fiel er Sündel an wegen "that damned nigger," indem er sagte, dies sei nicht sein Name und er verbitte sich denselben ein für allemal; der Andere remonstrirte zornig, aber was, konnte ich nicht



mehr verstehen, und ob es Liebe abgesetzt, weiß ich auch nicht, da der Zug in diesem Augenblicke weiter rasselte. 2. In Arkadelphia wurden Abends die üblichen Reden gehalten, in einem Hotel am Bahnhofe. Einer der Redner kam auf den Krieg zu sprechen und drückte seine Befriedigung über die Wahrnehmung aus, daß der damalige gegenseitige Haß nun völlig verschwunden sei und einer sich mehr und mehr besiegeltenden Eintracht Platz gemacht habe; daß unsere gegenseitigen Interessen sich inniger und immer inniger verschmelzen u. s. w. Bei diesen Phrasen ertönte in Pausen dreimal aus der Kehle eines jungen Mannes (Boy's) ein Laut, ganz ähnlich dem, den ein junges Schwein hören läßt, wenn man es am Schwanz festhält, während es fortlaufen will. Ältere Bürger verwiesen ihm seine Unart, den fremden Gästen gegenüber, aber ohne Erfolg, bis sie ihn endlich, nach der dritten Produktion seiner Schweinekunst, am Schlawittich packten und unter gewaltigem Sträuben hinauswarfen. Ob dies wirklich nur die Ungezogenheit eines rohen, branntweinvollen jungen Burschen war; oder ein Zeichen, daß der Vulkan noch innerlich glüht, wage ich nicht zu entscheiden. 3. Einer der Herren Editoren, ein Herr Thomas von Chicago, hatte in einer Rede in Little Rock ganz besonders betont und es dann in Arkadelphia feierlich wiederholt: daß Arkansas und Amerika im Ganzen das werden müsse, was man wünsche, daß es werde, nur durch Amerikaner, nicht aber durch Eingewanderte, umsomehr so, als die deutsche Einwanderung anfangs—wenn nicht ganz aufzuhören, so doch bedeutend sich zu vermindern.“

Der Nachjag sollte wahrscheinlich nur die Härte des Vordersatzes für die anwesenden deutschen Ohren etwas mildern. Was distirkt solche Sprache? Ist es böswilliger Knownothingismus, oder unerschulbige Blindheit? Ich möchte doch diesen Herren die zwei Amerika nebeneinander zeigen können: das eine, wie es jetzt ist, in Folge der finanziell, und an geistiger und körperlichen Arbeitskraft so reichen namentlich deutschen Einwanderung; und das andere, wie es sein würde, wenn—ich will nur sagen—seit 50 Jahren gar keine Einwanderung stattgefunden hätte. Ich glaube ein solches Bild müßte die jämmerliche Kurzsichtigkeit solcher Herren kuriren. Nach der oben angeführten Apostrophe braucht man Euch also nicht—nein! man will Euch nicht in Arkansas, Ihr Eingewanderten; Herr Thomas der Eingeborene muß das wissen! Versucht's aber dennoch, wenn ihr wollt und seht, ob man Euch hinausjagt. Platz für Viele und Gelegenheit eine Heimath zu gründen und sein Glück zu finden ist reichlich vorhanden.

Da ich die von Arkadelphia nach Little Rock, von da nach Forest City (etwa 40 Meilen westlich von Memphis) und wieder zurück und heim nach St. Louis, in Ermangelung von weiteren interessanten Einzelheiten, nicht in der bisher eingehaltenen ermüdenden Weise zu beschreiben gedanke, so eile ich zum Schluß, indem ich nur noch erwähne, daß die Fahrt durch die Iron Mountains recht hübsche, ja romantische Parthien bietet. Arkadia, wo wir zu Mittag speisten, sowie Piedmont sind zwei wunderschön, in lieblichen Thalkesseln, an der Iron Mountain Bahn gelegene Plätze. Etwa 7 Uhr Abends kamen wir in St. Louis an, und Jeder ging nun seines eigenen Weges, entweder in ein Hotel, oder eine Gelegenheit aufzusuchen um auf dem kürzesten Wege nach Hause zu kommen. Ich suchte Freund Merz auf, dem ich meine Reise-Erlebnisse mittheilen mußte, ich that es aber nicht so weitläufig, wie Ihnen gegenüber, werthe Leser und Leserinnen! wofür er mir gewiß dankbar ist.

Es ging mir aber diesmal wie manchen Frauen, wenn sie zur Nachbarin kommen—Anfangs wissen sie kaum daß sie etwas zu sagen haben: aber einmal im Zuge, da wachsen die Minuten des Geplauders ganz unversehens zu Stunden. Wenn dann auch der Mann vergeblich auf das Mittag- oder Abendessen wartet; oder wenn auch die Kinder unterdessen zu Hause die brennende Lampe umwerfen und das Haus anstecken; was thut's! „Vergnügen muß sind.“—Darum nichts für ungut; es ist geschehen!

## Die „Deutsche Zeitung,“ Muscatine, Iowa.

J. B. Wrippiert.

Durch die Freundlichkeit des Hcht. J. M. Loughborough, Land-Commissionär der St. Louis Iron Mountain und Southern Bahn, und des Herrn Col. L. B. Mills, Grundeigenthumsagent und Herausgeber des „Spirit of Arkansas,“ wurde uns eine Einladung zu der „Arkansas Editorial Excursion“ zu Theil. Von 250 Eingeladenen waren etwa 120 Redacteurs und Repräsentanten der leitenden Zeitungen von Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas und Californien anwesend. Am Abend des 28. September versammelten wir uns Alle auf dem Depot der St. L., J. M. und S. R. R. in St. Louis, um per Dampf gen Süden zu fahren.—Der Extrazug bestand aus 4 Pullman Palace Drawing Room Sleeping Cars, Parlor Tagwagen und einer Baggage Car. Abends 9 Uhr setzte sich der Zug in Bewegung, wir warfen uns in Morpheus Arme, und bei Tagesanbruch befanden wir uns schon in dem lieblichen Arkansas. Der erste Platz, den wir besahen, war

### Warf,

der Terminus der alten St. L. und J. M. Bahn. Wir hatten nur wenig Gelegenheit, die Umgegend zu besichtigen, denn Jedermann drängte zum Frühstück, welches uns auch schon in

### Walnut Ridge,

Lawrence Co., erwartete. Nach dem Essen besuchten wir die Umgegend und fanden das Land vorzüglich. Reich an Wasser hat das County weder Mangel an Holz noch an Prairie.—Unser nächster Aufenthaltort war

### Judson, White Co.,

wo sich die „Judsonia Universität“ befindet, die durch ihren guten Ruf in allen Südstaaten bekannt ist. Die Universität steht unter der Leitung von Rev. Benj. Thomas, welcher Herr die Güte hatte, uns ein Circular über die Entstehung und Fortschritte der Lehranstalt zu überreichen. In dieser Gegend ist ein ausgezeichnete Boden für Baumwolle. Der nächste Halteplatz war

### Little Rock,

woselbst wir unter Musik und Hurrahrufen empfangen wurden. Die Gastfreundschaft der Little Rocker wurde uns schon in St. Louis gerühmt, aber wie erstanten wir, als wir sahen, daß sich die hervorragendsten Bürger der Stadt förmlich um uns stritten. Ich mit noch fünf anderen Herren hatte die Ehre, der Gast von Herrn Thos. Lafferty zu sein, welcher für uns ein Essen hatte zubereiten lassen, das wahrhaft lussullisch war. Der Lafferty ist einer der hervorragendsten Kaufleute des Staates und Director der Duita Kohlengesellschaft. In seinem Hause hatten wir auch das Vergnügen, die Bekanntschaft der Fräulein Polk, Stewart und Augsperg und der Frau Capt. Conradt zu machen, welche Damen uns durch ihre Liebenswürdigkeit die Stunden so rasch vertrieben, wie Minuten. Während des Nachmittags besichtigten wir, unter Begleitung von Herrn Lafferty, die Stadt. Im Chamber of Commerce hatten wir Gelegenheit, eine Gurke zu sehen, welche nicht weniger als 57 Pfund wog. Ebenfalls besichtigten wir dort Kohlen, die an Härte den Anthracite gleichkommen. Von da ging's nach dem Leseraum der Herren L. B. Mills u. Co., welches Unternehmen diese Herren vor etwa drei Monaten in's Leben riefen; 800 Zeitungen sind daselbst zum Lesen aufgelegt, und ist ein größeres derartiges Unternehmen, als Chicago oder St. Louis aufweisen kann. Abends hatten wir ein Bankett in Concordia-Halle, welches uns die Bürger veranstalteten und bei welchem es sehr lustig herging.—Ueber Little Rock im Allgemeinen zu sprechen, sollte jedoch unsere Hauptaufgabe sein. Little Rock ist die Hauptstadt von Arkansas und Pulaski County, hat eine Einwohnerzahl von 20,000, verschiedene Zeitungen, worunter auch eine deutsche, sehr große Geschäftshäuser, aber leider keine Fabriken. Eisenbahnen, welche jetzt schon gebaut sind, sind die St. Louis, Iron Mountain und Southern, Memphis und Little Rock und die Little Rock und Fort Smith Bahn.—Pulaski County hat 40,000 Einwohner, 33 Schulhäuser und was eine Hauptsache ist—keine Schulden.

Früh am Donnerstag Morgen machten wir uns auf den Weg nach Hot Springs; in

### Malvern

Station wurden wir aus unsern süßen Schlummer durch den Ruf: „Malvern, Breakfast ready!“ aufgeschreckt, worauf sich alle Längschläfer sogleich auf die Beine machten und an den Hoteltisch

eilten. Nach Untersuchung der verschiedenen dort wachsenden Getreide wurden wir nach dem Depot beordert, alwo uns 4 Wägen der Hot Springs engspurigen Bahn erwarteten. — Fort ging's durch eine wilde Gegend, welche überall durch ihren ausgezeichneten Lehm bekannt ist, etwa 9 Meilen, als uns mitgetheilt wurde, daß hier das Ende der Bahn sei, und daß dieselbe noch nicht bis nach den Springs vollendet sei. Wir wurden nun in alle möglichen Arten von Fuhrwerken gesperrt, von denen ein alter Samernwagen, über den Bretter zum Sitzen gelegt wurden, noch nicht das Schlimmste war. — Ich hatte das Glück, auf das Dach einer Stage-Coach zu kommen, um welchen Platz wir uns Alle stritten. Endlich ging's vorwärts, aber, o Semine, eine solche Road war noch keinem von uns zu Gesicht gekommen. Lebensgefahr war bei jedem Pferdeschritt. Aber wie Alles auf dieser Welt ein Ende nimmt, so auch diese Fahrt, und um 11 Uhr Vormittags befanden wir uns in

### Hot Springs.

Dieser Platz ist berühmt durch seine heißen Quellen, und wie uns unser Führer, Herr Col. Smith, erklärte, kann in vielen derselben innerhalb 15 Minuten ein Ei weich gekocht werden. Nach der Ankunft im Hotel, (ich mit noch verschiedenen anderen Herren hatte die Ehre, im Arlington Hotel, dem feinsten im Staate, einquartirt zu werden), wurden wir von Dr. Rector zu einem Bade eingeladen, welches uns solchen Appetit bereitete, daß wir von der reichen Speisekarte sehr viel aussuchten. Nachmittags besuchten wir mit Col. Smith die Quellen und die Hauptgeschäfte der Stadt. Hot Springs hat jetzt eine Einwohnerzahl von 4000. — Abends wurde uns zu Ehren ein großartiger Ball im Arlington gehalten, an welchem die Elite von Arkansas theilnahm. Ich hatte auch das Glück, einen alten und doch jungen Muscatiner, J. M. Joy, daselbst zu finden; Fred hat eine Stelle als Clerk im Carl Haus. — Um 9 Uhr andern Morgens wurden wir von unsern „Rippenbrechern“ abgeholt und ich verschaffte mir diesmal einen Sitz im Innern der Kutsche, aber ich wäre diesmal besser auf dem Dach gewesen, denn ungefähr drei Meilen von der Stadt hatte unser Wagen ein „Runaway,“ dem ich das Zerreißen meiner Hosen, Stiefeln und Uhr zu verdanken hatte. Nachmittags 3 Uhr kamen wir in Malvern an und von dort begaben wir uns nach

### Arkadelphia,

alwo uns ein „Barbecue“ erwartete. Arkadelphia ist eine Stadt von 2000 Einwohnern und war während des letzten Krieges ein Hauptstapelplatz der Konföderirten. — Die Damen von Arkadelphia sind liberale zuvorkommend und können wir mit unserem Collegen von der „Pittsburgh Abvance“ sagen: „The beauty and accomplished manners of the young ladies were a source of general remark among the editors—particularly that portion of the editorial fraternity who felt that they had left no ties at home in the matter of matrimonial alliances.“ Durch die Güte von Hrn. D. Flannigan, Sohn von Gov. Flannigan, wurde mir die Baumwollencultur erklärt. Herr Flannigan hat eine der größten Plantagen im Staate und hatte die Freundlichkeit, mir Baumwolle für „unsere nördlichen Freunde,“ wie er sich ausdrückte, mitzugeben. Samstag Morgen fand uns wieder in Little Rock, von wo ich mich mit der Mehrzahl der Besucher gen

### Memphis.

wandte. Nach dem Frühstück begaben wir uns nach dem Depot der Memphis u. Little Rock Bahn, woselbst schon ein Extrazug auf uns wartete. Wir schifften uns ein, als wir schon nach wenigen Minuten durch den Ruf aufgeschreckt wurden: „Look at the beautiful prairies!“ Wahrhaftig, solch' ein Prairieland hatte noch keiner von uns gesehen. Mit aller Dampfkraft, die auf dieser Linie angewendet werden darf, ungefähr 12 Meilen die Stunde, kamen wir in

### Forest City.

St. Francis Co., an, wo wir vom Stadtrath des Ortes empfangen wurden. Forest City ist ein Platz mit 3000 Einwohnern und County-Sitz von St. Francis Co. In Gesellschaft unseres freundlichen Gastwirths, Judge Cole, besuchten wir die Umgegend der Stadt und fanden nach genauer Untersuchung, daß der Boden dort vortreflich ist. Um Mitternacht kamen wir wieder in Little Rock an, woselbst wir 1 Uhr Morgens unser Nachteffen und Frühstück einnahmen. — Andern Tags trafen wir wieder in

### Saint Louis

ein, wo wir uns verabschiedeten und Jeder seiner Heimath zugeing.

Der Dank, den wir den Herren J. M. Loughborough und L. B. Mills schulden, läßt sich nicht in Worten ausdrücken, denn diese Herren hatten Alles so gut und so fein arrangirt, daß wir uns Alle wunderten. — Wir Alle nahmen das Bewußtsein mit heim, daß Arkansas einer der schönsten und in späteren Zeiten einer der leitenden Staaten der Union werden wird. Das Land in Arkansas kann mit folgenden Worten beschrieben werden: Wollt ihr Prairie, geht nach Arkansas, wollt ihr Holzland, geht nach Arkansas, wollt ihr Bergwerk, geht nach Arkansas, wollt ihr Kohlen, geht nach Arkansas und so fort. Junge Leute schon sollten gar nicht versäumen, nach Arkansas zu gehen, da selbst das beste Land von \$1—\$10 P Acker gekauft wird. Weizen-, Korn-, Baumwollen- und Eisenproben können auf der Office d. Bl. gesehen werden. Die Bewohner sind friedlich und zuvorkommend und an den Krieg wird nicht mehr gedacht. Um vielen Anfragen zu genügen, wollen wir noch bemerken, daß die Schwarzen im Allgemeinen mit ihrem Loos zufrieden sind, und daß ich persönlich etliche sah, welche mir sagten: daß sie lieber wieder einen „Massa“ hätten. — Zum Schluß noch die Beschlüsse, die einstimmig angenommen wurden, um unsern Freunden im Süden unsern tiefgefühlten Dank auszudrücken:

„Da wir die freundliche Einladung, welche an die Presse des Nordwestens erging, um den Staat Arkansas zu besuchen, annahmen, und da wir das Land gesehen, mit einem Theil seiner Einwohner gesprochen und seine Gastfreundschaft genossen haben, so ist es unsere Pflicht, unsere Stimme hören zu lassen und es sei daher,“

„Beschlüssen, daß der Staat Arkansas, indem er „seinen Rücken der Vergangenheit zukehrt und mit voller Hoffnung in die Zukunft schaut, indem er Alles Vergangene vergißt und mit lichten Augen in die Zukunft blickt,“ den höchsten Rang in der Bruderschaft der Staaten einnimmt, indem er nicht nur der alten Flagge huldigt, seine Liebe für das gesammte Land zeigt und auch seinen Theil an der vereinigten Verwaltung tragen will, sondern auch eine ganze Realisation der brüderlichen Liebe einführt, das macht Arkansas—mit seinem herrlichen Klima und seiner noch nicht bekannten Wohlhabenheit—zu einem Garten von Amerika, auf den der traurige, hartarbeitende, frierende Farmer des Nordens als sein Asyl für kommenden Komfort und Glückseligkeit sehen kann.

„Beschlüssen, daß wir Alle willig den Staat Arkansas Solchen empfehlen, die eine comfortable Heimath haben wollen, da wir wissen, daß seine Millionen Acker eben so einladend, das Leben und Eigenthum eben so sicher sind, als in irgend einem Staate der Union, und da wir wissen, daß ein freundlicher Empfang Jeden erwartet, der seine Städte besucht, oder in seiner Wohlhabenheit sich niederlassen will.

„Beschlüssen, daß wir unsern tiefgefühlten Dank den Herren Thomas Allen, A. W. Sopher, J. M. Loughborough, L. B. Mills u. Co., den El Paso und Independent Stage Compagnieen, und den Bürgern von Little Rock, Hot Springs, Arkadelphia, Malvern, Walnut Ridge &c. aussprechen, da sie Alle ohne Ausnahme uns behülflich waren, mit Land und Leuten bekannt zu machen, und wir können deshalb ohne Bedenken erklären, daß Arkansas einer der besten Staaten für Farmer, Miners und Fabrikanten ist.“

We extract from the "*Anzeiger des Westens*" its report of the display of Arkansas products at the St. Louis Fair:

## Arkansas auf die St. Louis Fair.

In einer bescheidenen Ecke des Zeltes, das für die Klasse E (Getreide, Feld- und Gartenfrüchte, Obst und Wein) errichtet wurde, befindet sich auch die Ausstellung der Produkte des Staates Arkansas. Sie war uns, die wir in Folge häufiger Besuche den Staat und seine Bevölkerung besser als die meisten übrigen Staaten im Süden kannten, von ganz besonderm Interesse. Aus dem Staate, von dessen Producten man bisher nur Baumwolle und Wassermelonen kannte, dessen Bevölkerung neben der von Florida wohl die verwildertste im ganzen Lande war,—vor dessen Sümpfen und Ueberschwemmungen Einem graute; dessen politische und Finanzverhältnisse ein einziger Gräuel von Unwissenheit und Schurkereie gewesen sind,—aus demselben, in Spottliedern und Witzeleien als „Radenjack“ bekannten, einem wirklichen Staate nur dem Namen nach ähnlichen Gemeinwesen, sehen wir auf einmal eine Fülle von Producten zusammengestellt, die nicht nur von dem großen Reichtum des Bodens, sondern auch von dem Triebe der Bevölkerung zeugen, ihn regelmäßig zu bewirthschaften und zur Heimath fleißiger Familien zu machen.

Die herrlichen Obstarten, die schönen Weizen-, Hafer- und Hirsebündel; die riesigen Welschkornstengel und ihre colossalen Aehren sind keine Erzeugnisse der Negerarbeit, sondern es sind offenbar eingewanderte, weiße Hände, die dies Alles dem jungfräulichen Boden von Arkansas abgewonnen haben. Die mannigfachen wohlgeordneten Exemplare von Blei-, Zink- und Kupfererzen sind den Schächten nicht von Negerhänden entnommen worden, und es sind gewiß keine ehemaligen Sklaven gewesen, die alle Kuchhölzer aus den Wäldern von Arkansas zusammensuchten, sie hobelten und zu dieser Ausstellung zurichteten; sondern es sind die Anfänge einer fleißigen, intelligenten weißen Bevölkerung, deren Thätigkeit uns hier in die Augen springt.

Schon der Gedanke, sich bei einer solchen Ausstellung zu betheiligen; schon der Wunsch auf Erzeugung des Glaubens, daß Arkansas auch ein civilisirtes Gemeinwesen werden könne, in welchem intelligente Arbeit reichen Lohn verspricht und, eine große Mannigfaltigkeit der Berufe, ohne die sich keine gebildete Gesellschaft denken läßt, möglich ist; schon der Trieb in die Reihe der höher entwickelten Staaten eintreten zu wollen, wie ihn diese Ausstellung unzweideutig kund gibt, ist neu und im höchsten Grade erfreulich für Arkansas.

Unstreitig das größte Verdienst um den Staat, neben den wackern Männern, denen es in jüngster Zeit gelungen ist, Licht und Ordnung in das politische Chaos von Arkansas zu bringen, gebührt der St. Louis, Iron Mountain und Southern Eisenbahn-Gesellschaft. Es versteht sich ganz von selbst, daß, wenn sie das Publikum mit dem Reichtum und den großen natürlichen Hilfsquellen des Staates, nach welchem und durch welchen ihre Bahn bis nach Galveston hinab zieht, bekannt macht, es wesentlich ihr eigenes Interesse ist, das sie dadurch fördern will. Sie bedarf für ihre kostspielige Unternehmung einen lebhaften Verkehr an Personen und Producten; sie braucht in Arkansas und Texas einen Markt für unsere Industrie-Producte, und fleißiger Bewohner jener Staaten, die dem Boden seine Reichthümer entlocken, damit sie dieselben auf ihren Schienen den Consumumenten der Rohproducte im Norden zuführen könne. Wer aber könnte leugnen, daß sie zu gleicher Zeit dem Staate Arkansas einen unbezahlbaren Dienst damit erweist, daß sie die Bevölkerung der höher gelegenen Industrie-Städte, daß sie namentlich St. Louis mit den Reichthümern jenes Staates und mit seinen Producten intelligenter Arbeit bekannt macht?

Dazu gehört jener weitsehende Unternehmungsgeist, durch den sich amerikanische Geschäftsmänner so häufig auszeichnen, und dieser Unternehmungsgeist war es auch, der die genannte Bahn veranlaßte, Alles zu thun, was in ihren Kräften stand, um die Ausstellung der Bodenerzeugnisse von Arkansas auf der diesjährigen Fair zu fördern. Sie hat dafür Sorge getragen, daß nichts fehlte, was der weißen Einwanderung zeigen kann, daß sie nicht mehr in einen ganz und gar ver-

wilderten Staat kommt, und nichts, was intelligenter Fleiß an Urproducten bedarf, um aus dem Staate einen blühenden, für gute Familien wünschenswerthen Heimathstaat zu machen.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Eine umsichtig geordnete Sammlung von Erzproben aus Arkansas und Texas beweist den Reichthum dieser Staaten an ergiebigen Kupfer-, Blei-, Zink- und Eisenerzlagern.

## Getreide, Feldfrüchte, Obst, Weine. (Klasse E.)

Die im gestrigen Blatte beschriebenen Gemüse und Feldfrüchte nehmen die ganze Ostwand des Zeltes ein, das die obige Abtheilung der Ausstellung beherbergt. In der Nordwest-Ecke desselben hat sich die Iron Mountain Bahn häuslich niedergelassen mit einer brillanten Ausstellung von

### Bodenerzeugnissen aus Arkansas.

Getreidesorten, wie Weizen, Gerste, Hafer, Roggen, Buchweizen sind in merkwürdig schönen Exemplaren ausgestellt.

Das Getreide ist am Halm belassen, um die Länge des Strohs zu zeigen. Ausgezeichnete Heusorten (Blue grass und Hungarian grass,) sowie Klee von drei Fuß Höhe sind ausgestellt, alle aus Counties in der nächsten Umgebung von Little Rock, Arkansas. Schöne Exemplare von Tabaksblättern, dicke Süßkartoffeln, irische Kartoffeln, Äpfel, Birnen und Pfirsiche von ausgezeichneter Qualität sind ausgestellt. Eine californische Gurke, 57 Pfund schwer, liegt unmittelbar neben dem nördlichen Eingang des Zeltes und erregt allgemeine Bewunderung. Ferner hat die Iron Mountain Bahngesellschaft Welschkorn ausgestellt, dessen Halmen 15 Fuß hoch sind und die 6 Aehren am Halm haben. Auch Baumwolle an der Pflanze ist vorhanden, was aber die meiste Aufmerksamkeit erregt, ist das prächtige 10 Fuß hohe Gras (Heu.) Dann ist ferner zur Repräsentation der Erzeugnisse des Staates Arkansas ein schön gearbeiteter Schrank voll von Arkansas Mineralien ausgestellt. Der Schrank wurde nur aus Holzarten gearbeitet, die in Arkansas selbst wachsen, nämlich: White Holly, Wallnuß, Esche und Ceder. Diese verschiedenen Holzarten sind auf sehr geschickte und geschmackvolle Weise mosaikartig bei der Herstellung dieses Schrankes verwendet worden. Von den ausgestellten Mineralien sind namentlich zwei Exemplare, ein gewaltiger Blei- und Silbererzkumpen und ein Magnetstein, zu erwähnen. Der Letztere wurde in der Nähe von Hot Springs gewonnen und gewährt den Fairbesuchern großes Amusement. Der Stein ist nämlich an einem Strick aufgehängt worden und Vorübergehende machen sich ein Vergnügen daraus, Nägel, Stecknadeln, Federn, kleine Schlüsseln, Uhrschlüssel u. s. w. an den Magnet zu hängen, der schließlich einem Igel mit stacheligen Borsten nicht unähnlich sah. Der andere Erzklumpen, der erwähnt wurde, wiegt mehrere hundert Pfund und enthält 60 Prozent Blei, 10 Prozent Silber und 30 Prozent Quarz. Er kommt aus Pulasli County, Arkansas.

Die Gruppe der Iron Mountain Bahn Gesellschaft ist eine sehr interessante.

"There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune."

---

THE TIDE OF FORTUNE SETS NOW TOWARDS

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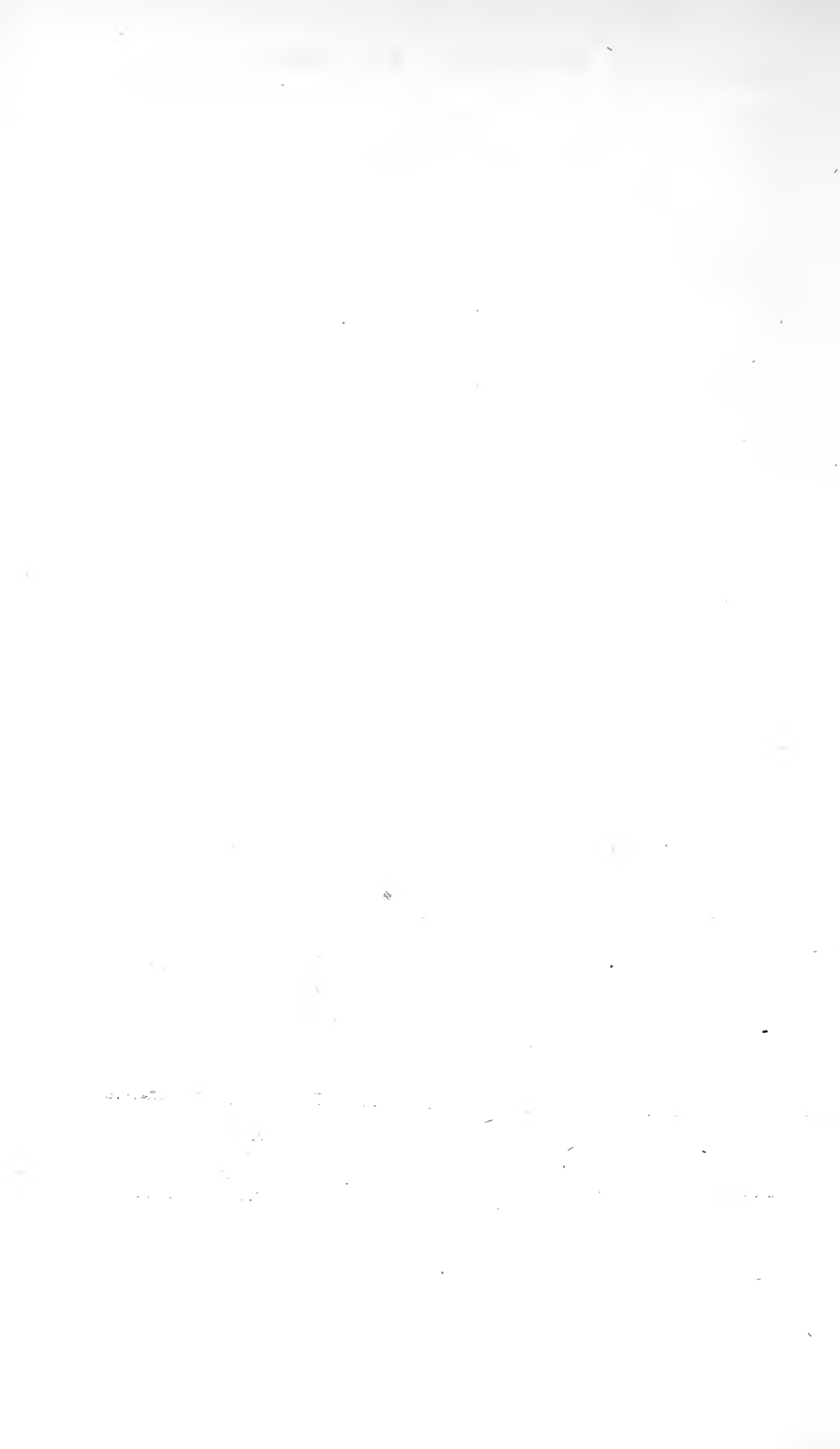
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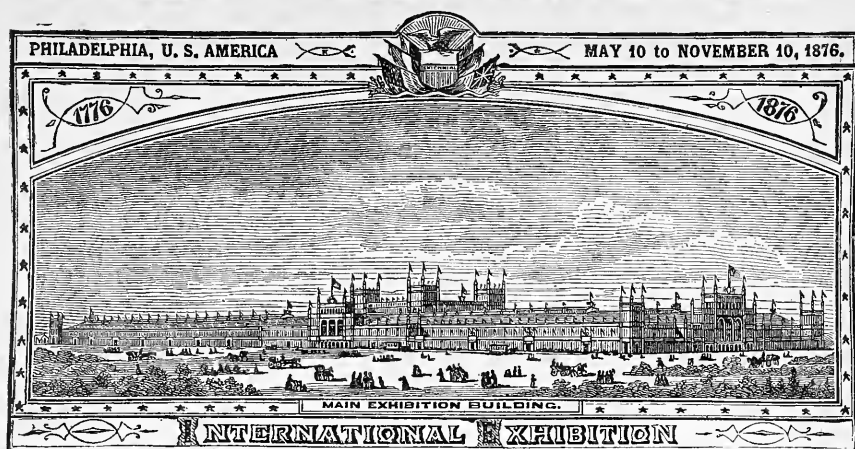
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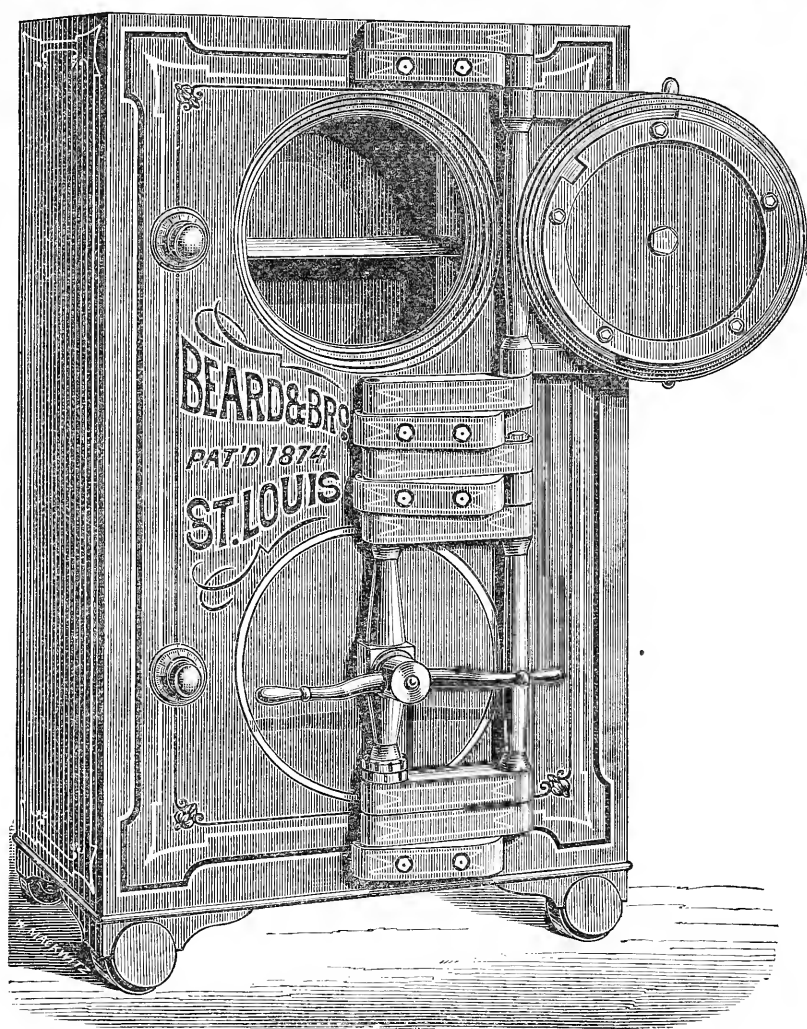
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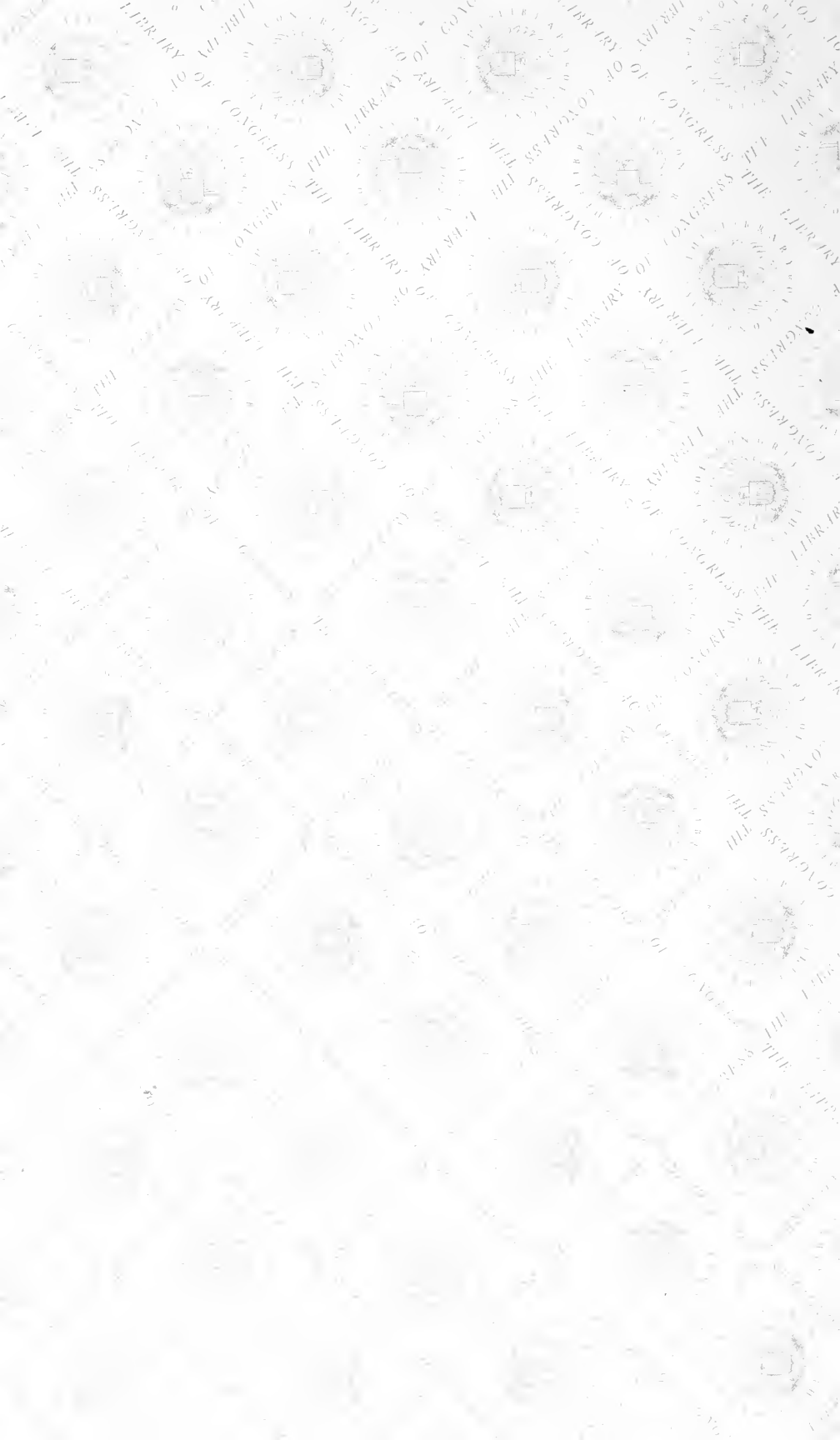
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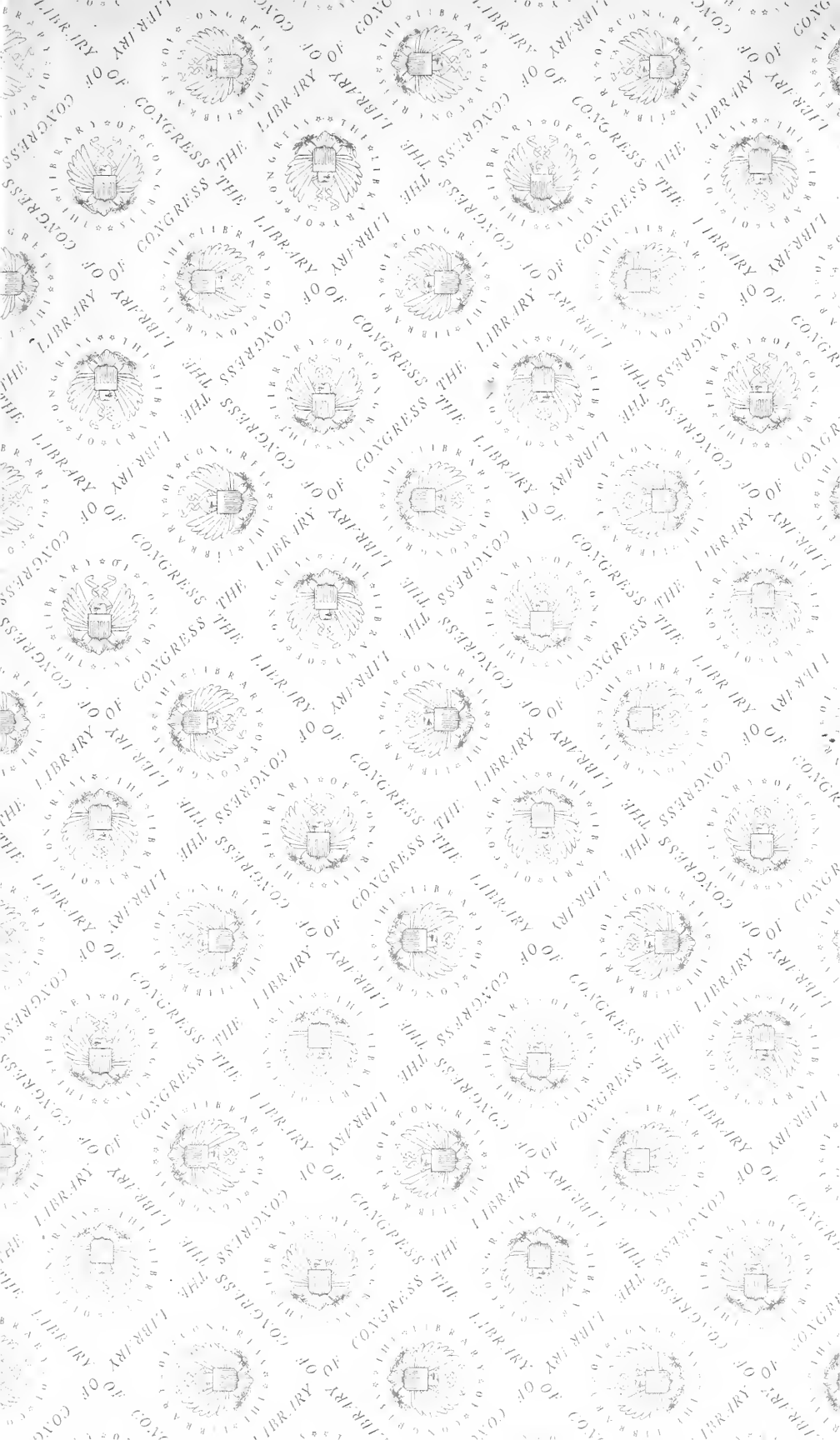
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